

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
**Office of Archives and History**  
**Department of Cultural Resources**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Lincolnton Commercial Historic District**

Lincolnton, Lincoln County, LN0572, Listed 12/16/2005  
Nomination by Laura A. W. Phillips  
Photographs by Laura A. W. Phillips, April 2005

See photo at the end of the nomination

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Lincolnton Commercial Historic District

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Pine Street, Poplar Street, Church Street,  
and West Court Square

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Lincolnton

N/A ☐ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Lincoln code 109 Zip code 28092

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination  
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Brown  
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/25/05  
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
62	13	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
2	1	objects
64	16	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

2

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

COMMERCE/financial institution

COMMERCE/specialty store

COMMERCE/department store

COMMERCE/business

COMMERCE/professional

RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

COMMERCE/specialty store

COMMERCE/business

COMMERCE/professional

COMMERCE/restaurant

RELIGION/religious facility

LANDSCAPE/plaza

VACANT

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Commercial Style

Italianate

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Stone

roof Asphalt

other Stone

Metal

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark 'x' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Government

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1900 - 1955

**Significant Dates**

1923

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Salter, James A. - architect (Courthouse)

(see continuation sheet)

Lincolnton Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Lincoln County, NC  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx 22

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	476530	3925250
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	17	476830	3925570

3	17	477000	3925100
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	17	476670	3924960

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian, consultant for:

organization City of Lincolnton date July 7, 2005

street & number 637 N. Spring Street telephone 336/727-1968

City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Lincoln County, North Carolina

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### FUNCTION OR USE

#### Historic Functions

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
GOVERNMENT/post office  
GOVERNMENT/city hall  
GOVERNMENT/fire station  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility  
INDUSTRY/communications facility  
HEALTHCARE/medical business  
LANDSCAPE/plaza  
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

#### Current Functions

TRANSPORTATION/pedestrian-related

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### DESCRIPTION

#### Architectural Classification

Moderne  
Art Deco  
Colonial Revival

#### Materials

Walls - Wood  
Metal  
Stucco  
Concrete

#### Narrative

The Lincolnton Commercial Historic District is located in Lincolnton, the county seat of Lincoln County. The city of over 10,300 residents is situated in the center of the county, which lies in North Carolina's western Piedmont region. The district, on mostly flat terrain, encompasses approximately twenty-two acres made up of all or part of twelve city blocks comprising Lincolnton's and Lincoln County's historic commercial and governmental center. Of the district's eighty resources, seventy-five (ninety-four percent) are buildings, most of which are commercial in original use and character. The non-commercial buildings include two government buildings (the county courthouse and a former city hall and fire station), three church-related buildings, a railroad depot, four industry-related buildings, and two houses. There are also five small vacant lots and three parking lots. The sixty-four resources (eighty percent) that contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district date from ca. 1900 to 1955. Two of the district's resources—the Lincoln County Courthouse and the First United Methodist Church—are listed in the National Register, the courthouse in 1979 and the church in 1994.

The Lincolnton Commercial Historic District is arranged with a grid street plan, part of the original 1785 town plan that placed the courthouse at the center with four axial streets and secondary streets running parallel and perpendicular to the four main streets. Most of the district stretches eastward from the courthouse, with East Main Street being the primary commercial thoroughfare. Paralleling East Main Street in the district are Pine Street, North Court Square, and East Sycamore Street to the north, and South Court Square and East Water Street to the south. West Court Square, North Aspen Street, East Court Square, Academy Street, and Poplar Street lie perpendicular to East Main Street. The rail line of the Carolina and North Western Railroad, now a walking trail, lies beneath East Main and East Water streets near Poplar Street. The district also has a group of narrow alleys that run behind or between

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buildings providing service access.

As an historic entity, the district is distinguishable from its surroundings. The district's cohesiveness does not exist beyond the district boundaries for a variety of reasons, including the presence of more recent construction, older buildings that have lost their historic integrity through extensive remodeling, parking lots and vacant land, and residential neighborhoods and other changes in land use. To varying degrees, all of these factors can be found in all directions outside the district.

The focal point, if not the geographic center, of the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District is the Lincoln County Courthouse and the square on which it stands. The monumental, stone-veneered, Classical Revival courthouse was built between 1921 and 1923. It addresses all four axial streets: East Main Street and West Main Street with hexastyle pedimented Doric porticoes and North Aspen Street and South Aspen Street with much smaller but equally refined Doric porticoes. Courthouse Square provides not only the setting for the courthouse, but also constitutes the only public green space in the district. Lushly landscaped with a variety of trees and scrubs, it has concrete walkways leading to the four entrances and, typical of courthouse squares, several stone markers and monuments commemorating local battles and war veterans. Emphasizing the important position of the courthouse and square not only in the district but also in the city, vehicular traffic is routed around the square in a one-way, counter-clockwise direction along East Court Square, North Court Square, West Court Square, and South Court Square.

The relationship of the buildings in the district to each other and to the streets is typical of the historic commercial centers of North Carolina's towns and cities. The arrangement of the district's buildings is significantly denser than is the building fabric outside the district. Most buildings are contiguous to each other, and the facades of most abut the sidewalk. The few exceptions consist almost entirely of the non-commercial buildings in the district. Examples include the courthouse, the Carolina and North Western Railroad Freight Depot, and the Frank Beal and Karl L. Lawing houses. Although this is a commercial historic district, these two houses are within the district boundary and contribute to the district's historic and architectural character. Built ca. 1910 and ca. 1905, respectively, the houses both served as the homes of the owners of adjacent or nearby businesses. While other houses in the district disappeared in the subsequent few decades to make way for new commercial development, these two houses remained.

The district has four three-story buildings: the Lincoln County Courthouse and, surrounding it, the Reinhardt Building at 101 West Court Square, the former Carolina First National Bank at 102 East Main Street, and the commercial building 119 East Court Square. The remaining district resources are nearly evenly divided between two-story and one-story buildings, although there is some division in the concentrations of these buildings. Most of the buildings along East Main Street are two stories in height, while the majority of one-story buildings are located on the district's secondary streets, particularly North Aspen Street, East Water Street, and South Academy Street. Buildings in the district range widely in width, from the one-bay-wide commercial building at 123 East Main Street to the eleven-bay-wide Lincoln County Courthouse.



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The monumentality of the courthouse is a product not only of its size, but also because—faced with ashlar stone and with stone classical detailing—it is the only stone building in the district. The district's predominant building material is brick. Most buildings are brick on all four elevations. However, one brick building has a metal-paneled facade, one has a rock-veneered facade, and several have stuccoed facades. At the same time, brick veneer is used on the facade for several one-story buildings that are constructed of concrete blocks. A small number of buildings in the district ignore brick in favor of other materials. Of these, frame construction is most common. The district's two houses are weatherboarded frame, and the freight depot is German-sided frame. Three highly utilitarian buildings—the roller mill, the seed house, and the blacksmith shop—are all of frame construction but are sheathed in corrugated metal. Two other buildings are constructed of concrete blocks, but unlike those with a brick veneered facade, one of these has a stuccoed facade, while the other uses concrete blocks for the facade as well as for the other elevations. The district also has a large, aggregate concrete and glass building, a modern structure built in the 1970s.

In a sense, the district is remarkably consistent in terms of the stylistic treatment of its buildings. While several architectural styles are clearly represented, for the most part buildings only allude to recognized styles, which are presented in a simple and understated way. Most decorative detailing—regardless of the style—is accomplished through brickwork, primarily in cornice, window, and upper facade treatments. Sometimes building decoration is advanced by the use of stone for window sills, lintels, and keystones, or by the use of wood or metal for cornices and storefront pilasters.

There are very few stylistically pivotal buildings in the district, and two of these—the Lincoln County Courthouse and the First United Methodist Church—are already (1979 and 1994, respectively) listed individually in the National Register. A third pivotal building is the Reinhardt Building at 101 West Court Square. All three exhibit sophisticated Classical Revival design. Approximately twenty percent of buildings in the district reflect to some extent, if only a hint, classical stylistic influence. Some examples are the R. S. Reinhardt Building II at 103-109 West Court Square, the First National Bank at 101 E. Main Street, the buildings at 103-105, 107, and 113-115 E. Main Street, and the Central Candy and Cigar Company at 205-207 South Academy Street. Across Academy Street is the Frank Beal House, and at 212 East Main Street is the Jonas Building—both reflecting the classically related Colonial Revival style.

Although the Classical Revival style has a strong presence in the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District, the Commercial Style accounts for the largest stylistic representation in the district, with more than twice as many examples as the Classical Revival. Spanning the first several decades of the twentieth century, the Commercial Style has a relatively plain, flat appearance that often utilizes patterned brickwork, shaped parapets, upper facade panels, a sparing use of inset accents in tile, concrete, or limestone, and rectangular windows often arranged in groups. Good examples include the Goodson, Jones, and Hoyle Building at 101 North Court Square, the commercial buildings at 114 and 116-118 East Court Square, and the buildings at 120, 202-210, and 227-233 East Main Street. In the 1940s and 1950s, around ten buildings were erected in the district that were related to the earlier

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Commercial Style, only much more plain, with stripped-down brickwork or other surfaces and either wood or metal-framed doors and windows. Among examples are the one-story buildings at 208, 209, 210, 215, 217, and 219 South Academy Street.

In addition to the Classical Revival (including the Colonial Revival) and Commercial styles, three other styles made very brief appearances in the district. One was the Italianate style, best seen in the ca. 1905 Wampum Department Stores at 124-132 East Main Street. The other two reflected the influence of architecture's modern movement. The 1930-1931 two-story section of the Rhodes and Corriher Company building hints of the Art Deco style through its use of partial-height brick pilasters with beveled concrete caps. The 1930s or 1940s remodeling of the storefront of the Childs Block at 107 East Main Street also reflects the Art Deco style in the form of its glass display windows and sunburst-designed terrazzo tile entrance floors. The 1949-1950 addition to the Rhodes and Corriher Company building and the ca. 1935 update of the Coca Cola Bottling Company building and its ca. 1950 one-story front addition exhibit the Moderne style through the streamlined look of curved brick corners.

The district also possesses several buildings with no style. Among these strictly utilitarian buildings are the Rhodes and Corriher Blacksmith Shop, the Lincoln Ginnery Company Seed House, and the Banner Roller Mills.

The area constituting the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District developed, for the most part, in spurts and lulls between ca. 1900 and 1955. Except for the typical modernization of many storefronts and evolving commercial usage of most buildings, there has been remarkably little change in the district's overall appearance since the 1950s. The changes that have occurred fall mostly into the categories of loss of architectural integrity, erection of new buildings, and loss of other buildings. Only six buildings have lost their integrity. The most significant cases—because of their prominent locations and completely covered ca. 1895 and 1910s facades—are the commercial buildings at 102 North Court Square and 111 East Main Street. Only seven buildings have been erected in the district since the mid 1950s. Of greatest impact is the large, aggregate concrete and glass former Carolina First National Bank building erected in 1977 at 102 East Main Street across from the courthouse. Nine primary buildings have been lost to fire or demolition in the last fifty years. Three of the losses—the ca. 1921 monumental First National Bank and two adjacent ca. 1905 commercial buildings on East Main Street—came with the construction of the Carolina First National Bank. Another significant loss was the ca. 1815 three-and-a-half-story brick John Hoke House, later known as the Inverness Hotel, and lastly functioning as a collection of businesses. Located on North Court Square, it burned in the mid 1970s, and one of the district's few parking lots takes its place. Another change in the district has involved a change in land use. The tracks that carried the Carolina and North Western Railroad beneath East Main and East Water streets near Poplar Street from the 1880s to the 1960s were removed in 1998 to create the Marcia H. Cloninger Rail-Trail, a walking and jogging path.

Despite these changes in appearance since the 1955 end of its period of significance, the district still conveys in large measure the overall appearance it acquired during the first half of the twentieth century, to the extent that eighty percent of the district's resources contribute to its historic and

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architectural character. Several buildings—particularly along the south side of the 100 block of East Main Street—have regained their early appearance by the removal in recent years of added metal facades, while others, such as the building at 113 West Court Square, have undergone or are undergoing careful rehabilitation. Additionally, most of the district's buildings are well-maintained and are in good condition. For these reasons, the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District retains historic integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

### Inventory List

The following inventory list provides basic information on all properties in the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District. Included are each property's name, current address or location, date or approximate date of construction and major alterations, contributing or noncontributing status, and a summary of each property's physical character and history. Historic names—based on the first known owner or use of a building or on a building's most historically significant owner or use—are used whenever possible. Parking lots and vacant lots are listed, but are not counted as either contributing or noncontributing resources. Buildings, sites, structures, or objects that add to the historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant, were present during the district's period of significance (ca. 1900-1955), relate to the documented significance of the district, and possess historic integrity, or that independently meet the National Register criteria are contributing resources. Buildings, sites, structures, or objects that do not add to the district's historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant; were not present during the period of significance; do not relate to the documented significance of the district; and due to alterations, additions, or other changes no longer possess historic integrity; or that do not independently meet the National Register criteria are noncontributing resources.

The inventory entries are based on the on-site recording and research conducted by Laura A. W. Phillips in the spring of 2005. The primary sources of historical information include the Sanborn Map Company insurance maps for Lincolnton for the years 1885, 1890, 1896, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, and 1941 and the Lincolnton City Directory for 1957, the first year in which the directory was published. Also of great help were interviews with several knowledgeable current or former downtown business owners, numerous published and unpublished documentary photographs, as well as books and newspaper articles on Lincolnton and Lincoln County. (Construction dates of ca. 1955 for several buildings are based on the best information available from these sources. In these cases, the only definitive information is that they do appear in the 1957 City Directory. Thus, it can be inferred that they had been built at least by 1956 or earlier.) Survey files containing photos, physical information, and historical data for district properties are maintained by North Carolina's State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

The inventory list is arranged alphabetically by street with the east side of the street listed before the west side, and the north side listed before the south side. Addresses and the contributing or

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noncontributing status of the district's resources are keyed to the accompanying district map.

### **SOUTH ACADEMY STREET (East Side)**

#### **Alley**

#### **Commercial Building**

107-111 South Academy Street  
ca. 1945

#### **Contributing building**

This commercial building is unusual in exhibiting segmental-arched window openings on the second story of its facade and north elevation that are common in buildings erected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries but atypical of 1940s buildings. The facade of the simple two-story building also has an unusual brick bond composed of six rows of stretchers and one row of alternating headers and stretchers. The building retains its two deeply recessed storefronts (111 with a double door) and stair entrance (107) along with accompanying brick skirts, plate-glass windows, and plate-glass transoms. Mid-century occupants included Simmons Insurance Agency, Simmons Housing and Mortgage Company, and Southern Life Insurance Company in 109; Heavner's Cash Grocery in 111; and attorney J. R. Friday and Mary's Beauty Shop on the second floor (107) (Sanborn Map, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

#### **Commercial Building**

115-119 South Academy Street  
ca. 1915

#### **Contributing building**

The two-story brick building is similar to the adjacent 107-111 South Academy Street in its simplicity and use of segmental-arched window openings, though its sash windows—on front, south side, and rear—are taller than those of its neighbor. Most of the segmental-arched windows have been covered with plywood. The four-bay-wide facade has two storefronts: 115, which is three bays wide, and 119, which is one bay wide. The larger has a recessed center entrance with a double-leaf glass-and-wood-paneled door flanked by plate-glass windows set on an angle. Two-pane shop windows are on either side of the center-bay entrance. All transoms have been covered with corrugated vinyl siding. The second floor of 115 has a projecting metal sign, no longer readable. At the south end of the facade, 119 South Academy Street also has a recessed central entrance flanked by display windows, but it has been remodeled with a modern metal-framed glass door, vinyl weatherboarding over the transom area, and replacement brick skirts with "hinged" corner joints. The south elevation has two altered doorways, one with a segmental-arched head, and a projecting metal sign, now unreadable. Throughout at least the 1920s, 115 was used as an auto repair and battery recharging station, and during part of that time, 119

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was a music store. The second floor was used as a lodge hall. By the mid 1950s, 115 had become the Lincoln Hardware Company, and 119 had become the Trim Barber Shop, its current use (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

### (Intersection with East Water Street)

#### **Vacant Lot**

Southeast corner of South Academy and East Water Streets

A service station built in the 1920s and set diagonally to face the corner occupied this vacant lot. At one time it was the McGinnis Service Station, and in the mid 1950s Carpenter's Taxi and Queen City Trailways was here (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929; 1957 City Directory; Leatherman Interview).

#### **Commercial Building**

203 South Academy Street  
ca. 1925

Noncontributing building

The storefronts of this one-story brick building have replacement doors and windows, and in the late twentieth century the building was stuccoed. Pilasters divide the building into two storefronts, which in their remodeled form are slightly recessed so that their original space is still understood. Typical of the 1920s, recessed panels carry across the upper facade of each storefront. Once the Red Bird Café, the building was used as Lawings Cleaners during the mid twentieth century (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Leatherman Interview).

#### **Central Candy and Cigar Company**

205-207 South Academy Street  
ca. 1915

Contributing building

Built in the 1910s, this two-story brick building appears to be largely intact except for its two storefronts, which have new doors, smaller windows, and have been partly enclosed with brick. A narrow central stair entrance with transom leads to the second floor. The stair entrance and flanking storefronts are divided by plain brick pilasters, and the original molded metal cornice with unusual rounded brackets above each pilaster still carries across the first story. The second story is five bays wide, with two one-over-one sash windows on either side of a central window with a round-arched fanlight. Sills and lintels are rough granite, and the round arch of the center window is defined by a three-layer brick arch with granite keystone and impost stones. Brick-enclosed segmental-arched windows are on the second story of the side elevations. Early uses of the building included a restaurant,

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a jewelry store, a laundry, and an industrial roller covering company. However, the building is most commonly associated with its use from at least the 1930s through the 1950s as the Central Candy and Cigar Company, whose trucks delivered wholesale goods to small businesses throughout Lincoln County (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Leatherman Interview; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 314).

**Lincoln County News Building**  
209 South Academy Street  
ca. 1955

Contributing building

The Lincoln County News, Lincolnton's primary newspaper from 1927 through 1965, was the first occupant of this mid-twentieth-century commercial building. The one-story, concrete-block building has a plain brick veneered facade with a central glass and wood door flanked on the north by a large rectangular window and on the south by a slightly recessed bricked space otherwise identical to the window. The south elevation has several service doors and metal-framed industrial casement windows (Leatherman Interview; 1957 City Directory).

### Vacant Lot

The Union Boarding House, built to attract the patronage of travelers stopping at the nearby Carolina and North Western Railroad Passenger Depot (no longer standing) was located until the 1950s on this lot—now a broad gravel driveway—and extended south to East Church Street (Sanborn Map, 1921).

**Commercial Building**  
215 South Academy Street  
ca. 1958

Noncontributing building

Murdock Bakery was an early occupant of this one-story, concrete-block building with brick veneered facade. The plain facade has a central glass and wood door flanked by two plate-glass store windows. The skirt beneath the windows is covered with corrugated metal (Leatherman Interview).

**Commercial Building**  
217 South Academy Street  
ca. 1958

Noncontributing building

Like the other commercial buildings erected in the 1950s on the east side of the 200 block of South Academy Street, this one-story building has a plain brick facade with a central glass-and-wood door, flanking rectangular store windows and a ceramic tile cornice coping. Like the adjacent 219, it has a

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slightly sloping metal canopy across the front.

**Jarrett's Laundry and Cleaners**  
219 South Academy Street  
ca. 1955

Contributing building

For half a century, Jarrett's Laundry and Cleaners occupied this one-story, concrete-block building with brick facade. The asymmetrically arranged facade has an off-center glass-and-wood door with a narrow transom, flanking shop windows—the northern window being nearly three times longer than the southern window—a metal awning, and a ceramic-tile cornice coping. A drive-up bay projects from the south side of the building. It has multiple windows on each of the three sides and widely overhanging eaves that extend on the south side to provide cover for the cars delivering laundry. Also on the south side are large metal-barred windows and a double-leaf glass-paned and wood-paneled door. The company started when C. C. Jarrett bought out Lincoln Dry Cleaners, which was located on the west side of the street (Leatherman Interview; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 55; 1957 City Directory).

### **SOUTH ACADEMY STREET (West Side)**

#### **Alley**

**Commercial Building**  
116 South Academy Street  
ca. 1925

Contributing building

Although the south end of this building may have begun as a one-story structure facing East Water Street, the two-story building took on its present form in the 1920s. The entire building is currently listed as 116 and is used by the Good Neighbor Shop, but originally there were four storefronts: 112, 114, 116 and, variously, 118 or 120. An earlier one-story brick building facing East Water Street (and discussed in that section of the inventory) appears to be an adjunct now to the South Academy Street building. The common-bond brick building has segmental-arched windows (now covered with vinyl) on the facade and north and south elevations at second-story height, a simple corbeled cornice across the facade, and stepped parapets receding from front to rear on either side. Plain brick pilasters divide the facade into four storefronts: 112 and 114 one bay wide each, 116 three bays wide, and 118/120 two bays wide. The storefronts of 116 and 118/120 have been almost completely enclosed with metal or wood sheathing, although the store window on the East Water Street side of 118/120 remains open. The storefronts of 112 and 114 are largely intact. Both have deeply recessed entrances—112 with a double-leaf door and 114 with a boarded-up door—plate-glass transoms and shop windows, and brick skirts with “hinged” joints. Multi-colored, octagonal, ceramic tiles cover the entrance floor of 112. A variety

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of businesses have used the building. In 1929, 112 was a cleaning and pressing business. By the mid-1950s, it was the Sain Shoe Repair Shop, 114 was the office of T. J. Wilson, 116 was the First Federal Savings and Loan Association, and 118/120 was the Mauney Grocery Company (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929; 1957 City Directory).

### (Intersection with East Water Street)

#### Frank Beal House

204 South Academy Street  
ca. 1910

Contributing building

The irregular form and multiple gables of this one-and-a-half-story frame house reflect the lingering influence of the late-nineteenth-century Queen Anne style, but its detailing is of the early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival style. The weatherboarded house has clipped north and south gable ends, multiple intersecting pedimented gables and dormers—most with modified Palladian windows. A broad wraparound porch with Tuscan columns shelters a three-sided projecting bay at the northeast corner as well as the central glass-and-wood-paneled entrance with its sidelights and transom. The 1906 Sanborn Map shows that “R. F. Beal & Co. Feed & Sale” was located on East Water Street just west of where his house was soon built. By 1921 that business had become the C. H. Rhodes Sales Stables and later, Rhodes and Corriher (See 124-128 East Water Street). Beal was also in business with C. H. Rhodes. The two men were in the Standard Oil business during the 1920s, and then in the 1930s had a gas and oil business that handled Atlantic Oil Company products, including the Atlantic White Flash gasoline, Atlantic Motor Oil, along with a line of kerosene and anti-freeze. The business operated two tank trucks and employed four men. Based at a plant on NC 27 between Lincolnton and Midland that had a storage capacity of 17,600 gallons, the business covered Lincoln County and parts of Gaston and Catawba counties (*Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935; Sanborn Map, 1906, 1921).

### Alley

#### Commercial Building

208 South Academy Street  
ca. 1942

Contributing building

James Leatherman and his father built this one-story concrete-block building shortly after they built their own barber shop at 210 South Academy Street. For the next two decades they rented it to the Lincoln Heating and Air Conditioning Company. The building has a recessed entrance, flanking store windows, and a recessed panel across the upper facade (Leatherman Interview).



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Lincolnton Commercial Historic District  
Lincoln County, North Carolina**Leatherman Barber Shop**  
210 South Academy Street  
1940

Contributing building

This one-story concrete-block building has a stuccoed facade, a center door, and flanking large one-over-one sash windows. During its entire history, the building has been the Leatherman Barber Shop. James Leatherman and his father built the building. Earlier, the business was located on Court Square, beginning in 1915, then moved to the 100 block of East Main Street, and finally moved to its present location in 1940 (Leatherman Interview; *Lincoln Times-News*, April 8, 2005).

### NORTH ASPEN STREET (East Side)

**Commercial Building**  
[200 block] North Aspen Street  
ca. 1925

Noncontributing building

The original center front door and flanking windows of the small one-story brick building have been infilled with brick, although the outline of the openings is still visible. Originally a paint shop, it was later connected internally to the building at 101 North Court Square and continues its association with that building (Sanborn Map, 1929).

### Vacant Lot

### Alley

**Commercial Building**  
210 North Aspen Street  
Early 1950s

Noncontributing building

Odell Harvey, owner of the adjacent Carolina Roller Shop, erected the one-story brick building for rental property. In the late 1950s it was occupied by Jack Keever Plumbing Company. The roof line of the building has been altered after the district's period of significance, as has the storefront. In its present form, the building has a low hipped roof, a horizontal band of windows on the facade with a metal-framed glass door at the south end, a plate-glass window and vehicle entrance on the south elevation, and a pedestrian door and two very small windows on the rear (Harvey Interview; 1957 City Directory).

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**Carolina Roller Shop**

Contributing building

212-214 North Aspen Street  
ca. 1940; ca. 1950

Odell Harvey started the Carolina Roller Shop in Maiden in 1935. Three years later he moved the business to Lincolnton, and in 1950 purchased this building, which is still family owned and operated under the name of Carolina Roller and Supply, Inc. During the 1950s, Carolina Roller Shop repaired and recovered rollers for nearly 150 textile mills within a 100-mile radius of Lincolnton. The one-story building is brick veneered over long, solid, concrete blocks, visible on the interior. It had been erected ca. 1940 and most of it was used by Kever's Body Shop, an auto repair and lacquer spraying business. The south quarter of the building, 212, was used as a store, identified in the 1957 city directory as the Tire Service Company. This section of the building has a metal-framed glass door with a now-enclosed transom and flanking single-pane wood-frame windows. A single vinyl awning covers all three openings. When Odell Harvey purchased the building in 1950, he converted a vehicular door on the facade to a pedestrian door, now a metal-framed glass door with a single-light transom. North of the door are two wood-framed display windows with two-part transoms, each part with a four-light pivot section. Metal awnings have replaced the original fabric awnings. A long, stuccoed name panel carries across the upper facade. The north elevation, along East Pine Street, has a stepped parapet, four windows with replacement glass, and a door near the rear. The rear has four windows and a door (Harvey Interview; Sanborn Map, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; LCHA Calendar, 2004).

**NORTH ASPEN STREET (West Side)****Alley****Commercial Building**

Noncontributing building

209 North Aspen Street  
ca. 1920; 1950s

The facade of this one-story brick building has been heavily altered. It has a wood-framed glass door at the south end and a pair of plate-glass windows east of the door. A weatherboarded section, probably vinyl, covers the facade between the door and windows and the roof line. The remainder of the facade, north of the windows, is sheathed by an expanse of modern Roman brick. The south elevation is composed of stretcher-bond brick. A concrete-block shed projects from the rear. In 1921 a building at this location was labeled as "plumbing." By 1929 it had become a feed warehouse, which it remained in 1941. Some of the facade remodeling probably took place in the 1950s; by 1957 Lincoln TV and Appliance Company occupied the building (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

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Lincolnton Commercial Historic District  
Lincoln County, North Carolina**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

213 North Aspen Street  
ca. 1925; ca. 1940, ca. 1950

This one-story building may originally have been part of an expansion of 209; however, it appears to have taken on its form as a separate building ca. 1940, with its present appearance probably dating from ca. 1950. The concrete-block building has a brick facade with two storefronts, though the building is currently used by a single business. Two replacement doors with narrow transoms are located at the center of the facade; each has a plate-glass window with a brick sill to its outer side. In 1941 the building was being used for tire storage, and in 1957 it was occupied by Duke Power Company (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

**McGinnis Brothers Tire Store and Service Station**

Contributing building

215 North Aspen Street  
ca. 1940

From the beginning and throughout much of its history, this one-story brick building was the McGinnis Brothers Tire Store and Service Station. Currently, a muffler business occupies the building. The distinctive exterior of the building remains largely unaltered. It is L-shaped, with the main section set back from North Aspen Street so that there is a concrete-paved area in front for the cars to be serviced. Originally a gas tank was located in this area. The building's unusual brickwork is designed so that every eighth row of stretchers is recessed. The projecting wing at the south end of the building has two windows and a door; the center section of the facade has a garage door and a six-over-three metal-framed tilt window with chicken-wire glass; and the north section of the building has a central door flanked by two windows—all sheltered by a metal awning with a scalloped edge—and a smaller restroom door at the north end. Each of the facade doors has six glass lights over three horizontal wood panels, the whole topped by an eight-light transom. The facade windows are plate glass with sixteen-light operable transoms. The north elevation, facing West Pine Street, has two small restroom windows, a larger window, and a garage doorway. Windows also run along the rear (west side) of the building (Sanborn Map, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

**Storage Building**

Contributing building

[no street number, behind 215 - facing West Pine Street]  
ca. 1925

Immediately behind the service station building and separated from it by a concrete ground gutter, is a plain, one-story, seven-to-one common-bond brick building with a large (replacement) garage door

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on the front, a replacement door flanked by two windows on the rear, and four windows down either side. The windows are currently boarded-shut. Initially, and through at least 1941, this was the supply and storage building for the telephone company. It later became a storage building associated with the service station (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929, 1941).

### COURTHOUSE SQUARE

#### Lincoln County Courthouse (NR, 1979)

Contributing building

Courthouse Square

1921-1923

Architect - James A. Salter, Raleigh

The Lincoln County Courthouse is the county's fifth courthouse since the 1785 establishment of Lincolnton as the county seat. The cornerstone was laid on September 30, 1921, and county officials moved into the building in June 1923. James A. Salter of Raleigh was the architect. The county commissioners authorized the issuance of \$225,000 worth of bonds to finance the courthouse, but it was later reported to have cost around \$350,000. The courthouse is a monumental Classical Revival "Temple of Justice" that commands the center of Lincolnton. The rectangular, ashlar-faced building has a tall, gable-roofed central block flanked by shorter three-story, flat-roofed, three-bay-wide wings on the north and south sides. The building's metal-tilt windows, composed of two vertical columns of lights, reflect its 1920s date of construction while, at the same time, demonstrating the classical technique of graduating the height of the windows from tallest (six lights) on the first story to smallest (four lights) on the top (third) story. Matching pedimented hexastyle Doric porticoes on the front and rear (east and west) of the center section, Doric friezes on the porticos and along the sides of the topmost gabled section, and antefixes decorating the corners and ridge of the center roof, all contribute to the strong Greek character of the building. At the north and south ends of the courthouse, comparatively small but academic Doric porticoes shelter the secondary entrances to the building (National Register nomination, Lincoln County Courthouse; Minutes, Vol. 9, pp. 106, 258; *Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935).

Like its predecessors, the courthouse stands in the center of Courthouse Square, from which Lincolnton's primary streets—East and West Main and North and South Aspen—radiate. The square is lushly landscaped with a variety of trees and shrubs, and concrete walkways lead to the four entrances. Typical of courthouse squares, various commemorative markers have been placed on the grounds. Two monuments, described below, date from the period of significance. All others were built later and are relatively small, and thus are not counted individually. On the east side is a low, semi-circular concrete bench bordering the walkway. Within the semicircle stands the four-part granite Lincoln County War Memorial. A bench honors all who died in service to their country, and three vertical tablets honors those lost in the Korean War, Grenada, and Lebanon (south), World War I and II (center), and the

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Vietnam War (north). On the center of the west side of the square is the Veterans Memorial, a granite pentagonal monument topped by a granite globe (1970/1993). South of it is a small podium-like granite monument honoring Medal of Honor recipient Rufus Z. Johnston (1874-1959).

**Monument to Confederate Soldiers of Lincoln County**  
1911

Contributing object

The Confederate monument is the only monument on the square that predates the current courthouse building. Located at the northwest corner of the courthouse, it is a classical four-posted granite table-type monument that shelters a marble water fountain set on a marble-tile floor. The Wallace Reinhardt Chapter, Children of the Confederacy, erected the monument, which was unveiled on May 11, 1911.

**Monument to 1780 Battle of Ramsour's Mill**  
1930

Contributing object

At the north end of the square, facing North Aspen Street, is a large rock with an embedded plaque honoring the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, which was fought a half mile to the north on June 20, 1780. Exactly fifty years later, the Jacob Forney Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, installed the marker.

### EAST COURT SQUARE (North Side)

#### Alley

**Commercial Building**  
112 East Court Square  
ca. 1920; 1950s

Contributing building

The one-story, one-bay-wide, brick commercial building has a stepped parapet down its long, exposed south elevation. The remodeled storefront has metal-framed plate-glass windows that slant slightly inward to an off-center metal-framed glass door, all sheltered by a metal canopy. The rear retains a door and a window, each with a segmental-arched head. Initially the building housed a movie theater, but by the late 1920s it had become a bowling alley. In the 1950s and for several decades, it housed Parker Furniture Company (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

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**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

114 East Court Square  
ca. 1920

The one-story brick building has a little-altered facade featuring a long, slightly recessed, panel across the upper facade and a recessed, double-leaf entrance with a transom. The flanking shop windows have unusual wood ventilated skirts. A recently added double-leaf, metal-framed, glass entrance flush with the front of the building provides a bad-weather vestibule between it and the original doors. An added, hip-roofed, asphalt-shingled canopy shelters the storefront. In the 1920s a tailor, and then a cleaning and pressing business occupied the building. In the 1950s it was the H. G. Saine Grocery (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

**Storage Building**

Noncontributing building

ca. 2000

Immediately behind the brick building and spanning its width is a separate corrugated-metal storage building with a garage door at the north end.

**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

116-118 East Court Square  
ca. 1920

The largely intact one-story brick building has two storefronts. Each has a centered wood-framed glass entrance and flanking wood-framed shop windows with a brick skirt. Number 116 has a fabric canopy; 118 has a metal canopy. A recessed name panel carries across the entire facade beneath a simple corbeled cornice. The rear has bricked-up segmental-arched windows and door. Initially this was a dry goods store. In the 1950s the building housed the Superior Loan and Finance Company and the Court Square Barber Shop (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

**(Intersection with East Main Street)****EAST COURT SQUARE (South Side)****Commercial Building**

Contributing building

107-109 East Court Square  
ca. 1925

Typical of the 1920s, this two-story brick building is four bays wide with two storefronts and an

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entrance to the second floor at the north end of the facade. Two recessed brick panels just below the roof line signify the two halves of the building. The second-story windows are one-over-one sash. The storefronts remain intact, each with a central, recessed, wood-framed glass door with transom and flanking display windows set on brick bases. Metal canopies cover each of the storefronts. The building is one of several built in downtown Lincolnton by R. S. Reinhardt. Early uses of the building included Miss Minnie Michael's hat shop in the south half and the Abraham Fruit Stand and Grocery in the north half. In the 1950s, Pilot Life Insurance Company used the second floor, while a jewelry store known as the Jewel Box was on the first floor (Heavner Interview, May 24, 2005; Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

**(Former) Lincolnton City Hall and Fire Station**

Contributing building

115 East Court Square  
ca. 1920

John K. Cline built this one-story brick building and then rented it to the city for use as the city hall (south half) and fire station (north half). The building has also housed several businesses, but probably the best known has been the City Lunch, there since the 1950s. The two storefronts each have a glass-and-wood-paneled door toward the center of the building. Wood-framed plate-glass windows remain on the south side, but on the north side, the original display window was replaced several years ago with a pair of six-over-six sash windows. At the same time, the transoms were covered with lattice. A flat metal canopy covers the storefront. Simple brick corbeling forms the building's cornice (Heavner Interview, May 24, 2005; Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

119 East Court Square  
ca. 1913

John K. Cline built this three-story brick building and later sold it to E. C. Baker. Although its first two floors have served numerous commercial uses, the third floor was used from the beginning and for several decades thereafter as the hall for the local Masonic order, the Lincoln Lodge No. 137 A.F. & A. M. In the early years, John Cline's son, Guy E. Cline, used part of the building as an automobile distributorship and as the dealer for Deering Harvesting Machines. The second floor was used by several tire businesses: the Champion Manufacturing Company (tire patches) in 1921; the J. H. Heavner Tire Company, which not only sold tires but specialized in vulcanizing and recapping, in 1929; and an unidentified tire sales and service business in 1941. In the late 1950s, the building held Rex Billiards, and in more recent years the Lincolnton Police Department was located here. The building is constructed of six-to-one common-bond brickwork, with darker header courses. All but the north elevation have been painted. Windows on all four elevations are distinguished by the use of flat-arched brick lintels. All of the second-floor windows have been bricked-up, and the third-floor windows on the south, east (rear),

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and part of the north elevations have been enclosed with plywood. Those on the third-floor of the facade remain open. The storefront has been remodeled with a replacement metal and glass main entrance, a horizontal band of narrow windows south of the entrance, and the addition of a metal hip-roofed canopy. Although the door itself has been replaced, the doorway to the upper floors, with its segmental-arched head, retains its place at the north end. Between the second and third-floor windows is a long recessed panel. A fancy brick corbeled cornice caps the otherwise simple facade (Heavner Interview, May 24, 2005; LCHA Calender, 1994; Harpe, *Lincoln County*, 20; *Lincoln County Pictures* 3; Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

### NORTH COURT SQUARE (East Side)

#### Goodson, Jones, and Hoyle Building

Contributing building

101 North Court Square  
1924

C. L. Goodson, C. A. Jones, and P. A. Hoyle had this two-story brick building erected in 1924 and proudly put their names and the date on a marble panel near the roof line on the south elevation facing North Court Square. The three men owned a fuel oil company and had their offices on the second floor, which was accessed by a doorway with an unusual balustraded transom area located at the southeast corner of the building. The first story housed a distinctive automobile service station that was recessed beneath the second story with a drive-through accessed by large open bays on the south and west (North Aspen Street) elevations. Helping to support the second floor was the angled brick corner at the junction of North Court Square and North Aspen Street which was detailed with “hinged” corner joints. At one point the business was known as Bumgarner’s Service Station, and in 1957 it was listed in the city directory as the Central Service Station. Present owner Bob Ramseur purchased the building in 1970 and soon thereafter enclosed the open bays, converting them to storefronts for a sandwich shop and a yarn shop. At some point the adjacent, ca. 1925, one-story brick building facing North Aspen Street was joined by an inner passage to the Goodson, Jones, and Hoyle Building. Although the form of the two-story building is unusual in Lincolnton, the details clearly reflect the 1920s Commercial Style. Subtle but distinctive features include brick bands composed of a soldier-course beneath slight corbeling between the two floors and at the roof line. A brick border surrounds three sides of the doors and one-over-one sash windows, accented by square stone blocks at the upper corners. The same white blocks, contrasting with the deep red brickwork, are found at the end points of the string course and cornice. A pedimented hood covers the corner entrance, and hip-roofed canopies shelter the 1970s storefronts (Ramseur Interview; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 312; Sanborn Map, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).



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### Parking Lot

Adjacent to the Goodson, Jones, and Hoyle Building on the east is a below-grade parking lot that marks the site of the ca. 1815 three-and-a-half-story brick Colonel John Hoke House, later known as the Inverness Hotel, that burned in 1976 (Ramseur Interview; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 331; Harpe, *Lincoln County*, 16).

### (Intersection with North Aspen Street)

### NORTH COURT SQUARE (West Side)

#### Commercial Building

Noncontributing building

102 North Court Square

ca. 1895; third quarter of twentieth century

The present two-story brick building replaced an earlier building on the site that burned in December 1889. Documentary photos show the building's facade with its decorative cornice. However, during the third quarter of the twentieth century, the facade was entirely remodeled with a metal-framed glass storefront, a flat metal awning, and a brick-veneered upper facade with modern windows. The common bond brick walls of the east side and rear elevations remain exposed, and on the rear, a double-leaf door with a five-light transom and a crowning flat arch survives. Exterior metal stairs hug the building at the front half of the east elevation and at the rear of the east elevation wrapping around to the back of the building. During its first half century, the building was used as a general merchandise store. In the 1920s and possibly earlier, it was the J. H. Rudisill and Company store. Later occupants have included Robinson-Daniels, Modern Electric, Farmers Cooperative Exchange (FCX) during 1944-1952, Rogers Furniture Company, Keever Bicycle Shop, Chamber of Commerce, and the telephone exchange. By 1957, the Lincoln Lodge No. 137 A.F. & A. M. occupied the upstairs (Sanborn Map, 1885, 1890, 1896, 1921; 1957 City Directory; Harpe, *Lincoln County Revisited*, 74; LCHA Calendar, 1992).

#### Commercial Building

Contributing building

104-108 North Court Square

ca. 1900

The two-story, two storefront brick building is unified by a continuous corbeled brick cornice and by its row of one-over-one second-floor windows topped with two-brick-high flat-arched lintels. Number 104 North Court Square is three bays wide with a flush modern storefront consisting of a central wood-framed glass door, flanking plate-glass windows, and a covered transom. Originally the storefront had a recessed double-leaf entrance with a tall transom and flanking windows set on a wood louvered base like

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that found on the building at 114 East Court Square. Number 108 is four bays wide. At the east end of the facade, a door with a six-light transom (two rows of three lights) and a segmental-arched head leads to the second floor. The storefront of the remainder of the facade of 108 has been enclosed with brick except for two modern doors and two single-light windows. A horizontal band of vertical beaded board across the top of the storefront survives from the original storefront. Numerous commercial enterprises have occupied each half of the building. During the first half of the twentieth century, 104 housed a general store, a dry goods and clothing store, and millinery on the second floor. In 1957, Bell Furniture Company occupied 104. Number 108 housed a grocery, a millinery shop on the second floor and, for several decades, the local telephone exchange, also on the second floor. Keever and Ramsaur Insurance occupied 108 in the mid 1950s (*Lincoln County Pictures 3*; Sanborn Map, 1885, 1890, 1896, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

### WEST COURT SQUARE

#### Reinhardt Block

The buildings along West Court Square between West Main Street and West Sycamore Street are known as the Reinhardt Block because they were all built by Robert Smith Reinhardt (1858-1925). Reinhardt was a leading citizen of Lincolnton during the first quarter of the twentieth century. He was president of the Elm Grove Cotton Mill, one of the most economically significant cotton mills in the area, and one of the organizers of the South Cotton Spinners Association in 1897. After it merged with the American Cotton Manufacturers Association in 1904, he was unanimously elected president of the new group the following year. In addition to his industrial pursuits, Reinhardt became one of the largest real-estate owners in Lincolnton. He caused to be erected not only the commercial buildings in the Reinhardt Block, but also several other buildings in downtown Lincolnton, among which are the buildings at 107-109 East Court Square and 114 East Main Street. Reinhardt often had a stone block on the upper facade of his buildings with his name and the date of construction. The first building in the Reinhardt Block does not have a stone block, but raised letters on the building's cornice proclaim "Reinhardt 1909." Blocks on the buildings at 103-109 and 113 say "R S Reinhardt 1913" and "R S Reinhardt 1910" respectively. A documentary photograph shows that the buildings at 117 and 119 also had date blocks, but these were covered when the two buildings were joined by an encompassing brick facade ca. 1950 (Connor, 93; *Lincoln County Pictures 3*).

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Lincolnton Commercial Historic District  
Lincoln County, North Carolina**Reinhardt Building**

Contributing building

101 West Court Square  
1909

Contractor/brick mason - Henry A. Kistler, Lincolnton

The Reinhardt Building is a three-story brick building with tan brick veneer sheathing the West Court Square and West Main Street elevations. The Classical Revival building, distinguished in part by its rounded corner, retains its original appearance, except for the replacement metal-framed glass main door on the corner. The West Court Square elevation is three bays wide, the corner is one bay wide, and the West Main Street elevation is eight bays deep. The first story is "rusticated" by having every sixth row of bricks recessed. The windows and doors on this level are shaded by striped fabric awnings. The West Main Street elevation has two sets of double-leaf glass-and-wood-paneled doors and two sets of steps leading from the sidewalk to the basement, which has inward-tilting windows. Octagonal glass-block sidewalk grates on either side of the rounded corner of the building allow additional light to enter the basement. Plate-glass windows carry across the first-floor level of the West Court Square elevation. The first story is capped by a full, wooden, classical cornice. The second and third stories are lined with one-over-one sash windows with brick flat-arched lintels with stone keystones. On these floors of the West Court Square elevation are remarkable decorative ironwork balconies with fire-escape ladders. The building is crowned by an overhanging, bracketed, classical cornice with the name and date wrapping around the corner frieze. For several decades the post office occupied the first floor, while a variety of offices were on the second and third floors. By the 1950s, the building was home to the Conner Furniture Company (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory;).

**R. S. Reinhardt Building II**

Contributing building

103-109 West Court Square  
1913

The facade of the two-story, six-bay-wide, brick building is veneered with tan brick. The two storefronts have metal-framed plate-glass windows and deeply recessed wood-framed glass doors. At the south end of the building, a recessed doorway with a patterned-tile floor leads to the stair to the second floor. An intact Luxfer prism-glass transom carries across the entire first story, interrupted only by a post in the center of the building. The transom contains ribbed glass and a border of patterned glass designed for the Luxfer company by Frank Lloyd Wright. Each of the two sections of the transom has three square pivot windows for air circulation. The transom is crowned by a wood classical cornice, which is a continuation of the first-story cornice of the adjacent Reinhardt Building. The second story has one-over-one sash windows. Each half of the upper facade has a pair of windows headed by a corbeled brick round arch with stone keystone and a diamond-shaped stone block within the arch bearing the initial "R." Flanking each of the double windows is a pair of single windows with flat arches and brick

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keystones. At the center of the facade above the windows is the name and date block. The building's cornice is composed of a band of recessed panels in the brickwork and two round openings. Early uses of the building included a grocery, a Western Union office, an Express office, the Elite Parlor, a cotton sample store, and offices on the second floor, including the office of cotton broker B. C. Lineberger Sr. In later years, mattress manufacturing took place on the second floor (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; LCHA Calendar, 1996).

**R. S. Reinhardt Building I**

Contributing building

113 West Court Square  
1910

The two-story brick building has a single storefront with a deeply recessed center entrance marked by a pair of decorative G. L. Mesker and Company cast iron pilasters. The entrance is flanked by plate-glass display windows and a two-layer transom area consisting of a row of translucent glass panes topped by a second row of smaller clear glass panes, the whole crowned by a paneled wood frieze. At the north end of the storefront, a paneled wood door leads to the stair to the second floor. The second story is divided by plain brick pilasters into two halves, each with a set of three sash windows and a single sash window with a segmental-arched lintel. Originally the triple windows were oriel windows. However, within a decade these were replaced by the flat, three-part windows. At the top of the center pilaster is a marble name and date block. The building has a corbeled and dentiled cornice. The first known occupant was the Warlick Furniture Company, which also operating an undertaking business. The building later became the Barkley Furniture Store (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Harpe, *Lincoln County*, 17; *Lincoln County Pictures* 3).

**Commercial Building**

2 Contributing buildings

117-119 West Court Square  
ca. 1920; ca. 1925; ca. 1950

This two-story brick building was originally two buildings—one built ca. 1920 and the other following several years later. Local tradition asserts that R. S. Reinhardt had the buildings erected, as he did the other buildings in the block. Early photos show date blocks near the cornice of each. Sanborn maps indicate that the buildings were slightly separated. This can all been seen on the rear (west) elevation. The present facade, which unites the two buildings, was added around 1950. Apparently, at that time, the space between the two buildings became the stair to the second floor. The building has two storefronts, each with metal-framed doors and windows set on a brick base. The plain brick of the second story is enlivened by a simple pattern of raised bricks. The second floor has six one-over-one sash windows. The windows and storefronts are all shaded by fabric striped awnings. An exterior metal stair on the north side of the building leads to the second floor. The south half of the building was

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originally the office of the *Lincoln Times* newspaper. By the 1950s, the building housed the *Lincoln Times*, the *Southern Textile News*, Mullen Publications, Allen and Associates, Western Carolina Plumbing Company, and Hovis Grocery (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County Pictures* 3).

### Parking Lot

On the north side of 117-119 West Court Square is a narrow paved parking lot filling an open space that had been at the site since around 1910 (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1011, 1921, 1929, 1941).

### EAST MAIN STREET (North Side)

**First National Bank**  
101 East Main Street  
ca. 1915

Contributing building

Although the First National Bank opened for business on January 15, 1903, this building was not erected until ca. 1915. The main, corner entrance of the two-story, gray-painted brick building is set at an angle so that it addresses both East Main Street and East Court Square. It has a replacement double-leaf, metal-framed glass door, but retains the wood door surround with modilioned cornice and shaped parapet. Above the entrance on the second story is a single one-over-one sash window. The two-bay south elevation on East Main Street has a replacement metal-framed glass display window on the first story, and on the second, two one-over-one sash windows. The west elevation along East Court Square is divided into six bays by six shallow brick pilasters. Entrances are located at the center and at the rear of the elevation. The center entrance has a three-row brick header, and between it and the second-story window is a diamond composed of bricks laid at different angles. The first bay on the west elevation has a single one-over-one sash window on each floor. The remaining bays have three-part windows—one-over-one sash flanked by narrow single lights—on the first story and paired one-over-one sash on the second story. Immediately above the second-story windows, a projecting modilioned wood cornice carries across the south, southwest corner, and west elevations. A plain brick parapet headed by a soldier course and a concrete coping rises above the cornice. After 1941, a small, one-bay-wide, one-story brick addition was built to the north end of the west elevation. First National Bank was one of the few in the area that was permitted to reopen for unrestricted business after the national bank holiday in 1933. In the early 1930s, First National Bank moved across East Main Street to the Neo-Classical Revival building—no longer standing—that had been occupied by the County National Bank. The Lincoln National Bank later occupied the building at 101 East Main Street that First National Bank had vacated (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; LCHA Calendar, 1994).

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**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

103-105 East Main Street  
ca. 1915

The two-story, tan brick building has two storefronts. They have been remodeled and the overall transom enclosed, but the entrance of 105 is deeply recessed and, on either side of it, the display windows have narrow transoms between the display area and the interior of the store. A canvas awning carries across the first story. The second story is divided into five bays, with the center bay having a pair of windows. The windows are one-over-one sash and are shaded by fabric awnings. The windows are headed by brick flat arches with stone keystones and a lighter color brick border around the flat arch. Between each window, or pair of windows, is a narrow, vertical, recessed, corbeled panel. The building's wide corbeled cornice features a row of recessed brick panels. In its early years, the building housed a dry goods and boot-and-shoe store on the first floor and offices on the second floor. From the 1950s, various businesses have occupied the first floor (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

**Childs Block**

Contributing building

107 East Main Street  
1914

The Childs Block is a two-story, tan brick building. Although the storefront has been altered more than once, it still conveys a strong sense of its 1930s or 1940s Art Deco styling. This includes vertical panels of glass caulked at the joints, giving an almost curved appearance to the display windows, and three-color terrazzo tile sunbursts on the floors leading to the two recessed entrances and the entrance to the stair at the west end. The Art Deco-style structural-glass panels that ran across the building above the storefront—probably where glass transoms were originally—have been removed or covered in recent years by a rounded fabric awning. The second story of the facade is very similar to that of 103-105 East Main Street. Although this is a single building, the upper facade is arranged to reflect the two stores that occupied the building in its early years. Each half has a pair of one-over-one sash windows flanked by single one-over-one sash windows, creating six bays overall. All windows are headed by a brick flat arch with a stone keystone. Centered above the west half of the facade is a recessed stone block with the name and date "Childs Block 1914." Above the windows on the east half of the facade was a molded wood or metal cornice, long since removed. Uniting the two halves of the building is the corbeled cornice with recessed brick panels like that found on 103-105 East Main Street, only with different proportions. From the time of the building's construction until at least the mid 1930s, the west half of the building was the Childs-Wolfe Drug Company, founded by C. E. Childs, his son W. H. Childs, and the elder Childs's son-in-law, Drayton Wolfe. According to a 1935 newspaper article, the business was known around the county at that time as the Penslar Drug Store, but the source of this name has not been

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determined. The east half of the building was originally used as a dry goods and boot and shoe store, but by the 1940s, the first floor had become a single store, Rose's 5-10-25 Cent Store. The second floor has always been offices. In the mid 1950s these included the law offices of Childs and Childs and H. A. Jones (Sanborn Map 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 80).

**Commercial Building**

Noncontributing building

111 East Main Street  
1910s; ca. 1990

From at least as early as 1885, a two-story brick building was at this location. It may have been incorporated into the present building, which was built or acquired its present size in the 1910s. The building was five bays wide, divided asymmetrically into two stores of three bays and two bays. Second-story windows had segmental-arched heads. The upper facade was characterized by two recessed panels, corresponding with the size of the two stores, and a classically molded metal cornice. Around 1990 the entire facade was changed, except for the metal cornice. The facade is now rough stone-veneered, the second story has modern windows, and the storefront—which is sheltered by an asphalt-shingled canopy—has a single recessed entrance of metal-framed glass flanked by metal-framed glass display windows set on recessed stone bases. During its early years, the building housed a general merchandise store, a grocery, a tin shop, and a meat market. From at least the late 1930s through the 1950s, it was the Dave Lerner Store (Sanborn Map, 1885, 1890, 1896, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 80).

**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

113-115-117 East Main Street  
ca. 1920; 1960s

Built around 1920, the one-story brick building contains three stores which originally were unified by their design. While 113 and 115 retain many of the original features, the facade of 117 was later sheathed with plain metal panels, probably in the 1960s, judging from documentary photos. Its storefront consists of metal-framed glass display windows and center door shaded by a fabric awning. The storefront of 115 has a replacement recessed door on the west end and, east of the entrance, a rectangular window surrounded by weatherboarding with a brick veneer base. It is sheltered by a fabric awning. The storefront of 113 has a metal-framed glass, slightly recessed entrance with flanking display windows set on a brick base and covered by a flat metal canopy. The interior of 113 retains a pressed-metal ceiling. The transoms over the storefronts of 113 and 115 have been covered. However, the upper facade of these two stores remains intact and includes a continuous molded cornice above the storefronts, recessed brick panels defining the width of each store, and a heavily molded metal facade

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cornice that carries across the entire width of the combined stores. In the early years of this building, a restaurant, a barber shop, a jewelry store, and miscellaneous other stores occupied it. A 1940s photograph shows that at that time the Central Café occupied 113 and Rexall Drugs occupied 117 (the storefront of 115 was blocked from view). By the mid 1950s, Ramseur's Café was in 113, 115 housed the Mill Remnant Shop, and the Economy Drug Store occupied 117 (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 89; Harpe, *Lincoln County* 113).

**Rivoli Theatre**

Contributing building

119-121 East Main Street  
ca. 1900; ca. 1920; ca. 1945

Between 1896 and 1902 a two-story brick building was erected at this location. It had two storefronts, a pair of segmental-arched sash windows above each, and a paneled brick frieze just below the roof line. Around 1920, the building was either replaced by a larger two-story brick building, or more likely, it was enlarged, and the east half of it was converted to a movie theater known as the Rivoli Theatre. At that time the facade was altered to reflect its new use, with small projection room windows and a decorative entrance. In the 1940s the facade was remodeled once again while the Rivoli was still active. At this time the building acquired its present facade, although after the theater closed, probably ca. 1950, the storefronts were modernized. Throughout the time that the east half (121) of the building was used as a movie theater, the west half (119) was used by a variety of stores. Though designed differently, each of the storefronts has a recessed entrance and metal-framed glass display windows and doors. In the center of the building a wood-framed glass door opens to the stair to the second floor. A fabric awning shelters the storefront of 121. A flat metal canopy, now covered by a fabric awning, covers the storefront of 119 and the stair entrance. The six-bay-wide second story features plain stretcher-bond brickwork and recessed panels that enframe the one-over-one sash windows (originally six-over-six) (Sanborn Map, 1896, 1902, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Harpe, *Lincoln County*, 13; LCHA Calendar, 1992; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 89; Harpe, *Lincoln County Revisited*, 15).

**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

123 East Main Street  
ca. 1920; 1930s

While the new Lincoln County Courthouse was under construction between 1921 and 1923, court offices had to move elsewhere. The 1921 Sanborn Map labels this one-story brick building, which was shown for the first time on that map, as the temporary courthouse offices with a vault in the rear ell. Early photos of the building show that it had a simple facade with a segmental-arched door at the west end and a pair of tall, three-sash-high windows with segmental-arched heads to the east. In the 1930s the building acquired its present facade, although the transom above the storefront has been infilled or



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covered-over. The deeply recessed storefront has a green tile floor, a central wood-framed glass door with transom, and flanking display windows with multiple angles from the sidewalk to the entrance, caulked at the joints and resting on a base of green structural-glass panels. The upper facade of rough yellow brick is subtly designed with side pilasters and very gradual corbeling so that the cornice area projects outward slightly from the rest of the facade. For decades this has been a sporting goods shop (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; LCHA Calendar, 1992; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 66; Harpe, *Lincoln County Revisited*, 15).

**Belk-Schrum Company Department Store**  
125 East Main Street  
1920s; ca. 1955

Contributing building

Around 1920 Bob Hinson built a one-story brick garage with a capacity of twenty-five automobiles at this location. When he moved his business to Sycamore Street in the late 1920s, his former garage building was either remodeled or rebuilt to create the two-story building that became the home of the Belk-Schrum Department Store. The store first opened in Lincolnton in 1921 at what is now 114 East Main Street. Initially it was the Belk-Johnson Company, but in 1923 it became Belk-Schrum, which it remained at least through the 1950s before eventually becoming simply Belk's. The company's new store at 125 East Main Street was three bays wide and had a stepped parapet cornice. In 1950 the building doubled in size, running all the way back to Sycamore Street. At the same time, or within several years, the building received its current modern facade, which appears in a 1957 photograph. Today the facade retains most of its 1950s appearance. Except for two rectangular vents about halfway up the facade and the painted sign of the current occupant, the plain facade is composed of rectangular metal panels within a perimeter border of a darker color. The broad storefront has a pair of recessed entrances and plate-glass display windows, the whole sheltered by a flat metal canopy with a center support post. A secondary entrance is located near the north end of the North Academy Street elevation. It has a narrow recessed doorway with a small area of display windows on either side and a flat metal canopy. The west elevation is plain brickwork. The rear (north elevation) has metal industrial windows and a double-leaf entrance. Belk's remained at this location until 1989, when the store moved to an outlying shopping center (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 309-310; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 66, 89).

**(Intersection with North Academy Street)**

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Lincoln County, North Carolina**First United Methodist Church (NR, 1994)**

201 East Main Street

1919-1920; 1936; 1956-1957

Architects - C. W. Carlton (1919-1920)

Marsh and Hawkins (1956-1957)

Contributing building

(1919-1920 building with 1936 addition)

Noncontributing building

(1956-1957 building)

Believed to have been built according to plans prepared by architect C. W. Carlton for the Methodist congregation in Lenoir, the dome-covered First United Methodist Church is a Classical Revival-style building of erected in 1919-1920. With its sophisticated, two-story-on-raised-basement exterior design and impressive interior sanctuary, it is one of the principal architectural landmarks in Lincolnton. The church is the third erected by a congregation founded in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. In 1936 the yellow brick elevations and Classical Revival detailing of the main church on the northeast corner of East Main and North Academy streets were repeated in the design of the two-story Sunday School addition to the north side of the original building. In 1956-1957 a larger two-story-on-basement education building that repeats the yellow brick of the two earlier blocks with restrained classical ornamentation was erected along East Sycamore Street north of the church and Sunday School addition, to which it is connected by a covered breezeway (Hood, National Register nomination for First United Methodist Church, 7.1, 8.1).

**Commercial Building**

213 East Main Street

ca. 1920

Contributing building

The two-story brick building has a long, recessed brick panel just below the roof line. The second-story windows have been replaced with a single, long, three-part window that probably dates from the 1950s. An asphalt-shingled, shed-roofed canopy shelters the storefront with its deeply recessed entrance and flanking display windows set on a high brick base. The west elevation has one-over-one sash windows and a metal stair that rises from south to north to two second-floor doors. It is sheltered by a flat metal canopy. A variety of stores have occupied the building throughout its history (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 Sanborn Map).

**First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**

217 East Main Street

2001

Noncontributing building

In the mid twentieth century, the Lincolnton Police and Fire Department building was located on this site, but it was later demolished. The lot remained vacant until 2001, when the First United Methodist Church built a Fellowship Hall. The one-story brick structure with raised basement is Colonial Revival

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in style with a Tuscan pedimented portico and a classical cornice. The portico shelters four French doors with transoms.

**Grand Theater**

## Contributing building

[currently shares address with 227 East Main Street]  
ca. 1922

Although now joined internally with the store at 227 East Main Street, this two-story brick building was erected individually ca. 1922, presumably soon after it was shown as “From Plans” on the 1921 Sanborn Map. It was the Grand Theater, which continued to operate until around 1940, when owner Ab Miller closed it and opened the Century Theater across the street. In the late twentieth century, the storefront was altered to coordinate with King’s Office Supply next door (227), and a single, hip-roofed, asphalt-shingled canopy carries across the storefronts of both. The two-story building no longer has a front door. Instead it has a row of four wood-framed plate-glass display windows surrounded on the remainder of the first-story level by plain brickwork. Except for the windows, the second story remains intact. The windows have changed—pop-in muntins with vinyl skirts—but the openings, with concrete sills and lintels, remain the same. Above each window is a recessed brick panel, and the upper facade/cornice has several layers of simple brick corbeling with pilasters at each end that rise above the main roof line (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; LCHA Calendar, 1992).

**Auto Sales and Service Building**

## Contributing building

227-233 East Main Street  
ca. 1920

The long, one-story, brick, Commercial Style building is divided by brick pilasters into three sections—a narrow center section and two flanking longer sections. The center section has plain brickwork above the storefront, whereas the two longer sections each have a long, concrete, recessed panel bordered by a row of bricks with a small concrete square at each corner. The storefronts have all been altered post 1950, but each in a different way. The storefront of 227 continues the storefront design of the two-story building to the west in its row of four windows and hip-roofed canopy. However, 227 also has a double-leaf door and sidelights that is the entrance to the current business that joins the one- and two-story buildings. The narrow store—231—in the center of the one-story building has a deeply recessed entrance with a single-leaf door and transom and flanking display windows on a brick base. The third storefront—233—at the east end of the building has a slightly recessed central entrance with a single-leaf door and transom flanked by three-section plate-glass display windows set on a brick base. The east elevation of the building has segmental-arched windows—now all enclosed—on both the main story and the exposed basement story. Sanborn maps show that between at least 1921 and 1941 the building was used for automobile sales and service. A photograph from the 1920s suggests (the sign is difficult to

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read) that this was the Dodge Brothers Motor Vehicles dealership. Sinclair gasoline products were also sold here. A photograph from the early 1950s shows that the building was a Ford and Mercury dealership at that time. During its automobile-related years, the storefronts, though framed by the brick facade and pilasters, were set far back from the front edge of the building, providing cover for some of the cars on display and for cars entering the service area (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; Harpe, *Lincoln County Revisited*, 27, 63; Stroup).

### Overpass and Marcia H. Cloninger Rail-Trail

#### Overpass/Stair

#### Noncontributing structure

Between 233 and 235 East Main Street, the street becomes an overpass for the railroad tracks that once ran beneath the road. The concrete and metal overpass railing along the outer edge of the sidewalk is a modern replacement of the original, although the lamp posts appear to date from the 1920s or 1930s. A modern stair just east of 233 East Main Street descends to the track level. The abandoned railroad tracks were removed and their path was converted to a walking and jogging path. The Marcia H. Cloninger Rail-Trail was dedicated on September 12, 1998.

### Dixie Grocery Company

#### Contributing building

233 ½ and 235 East Main Street, 224 East Sycamore Street, 117 North Poplar Street  
ca. 1924; ca. 1950; ca. 1975

The 1921 Sanborn Map indicates that this two-story brick building was soon to be built, for it is labeled "Dixie Wholesale Gro. Co. (From Plans)." The Dixie Grocery Company was incorporated on January 1, 1924 and occupied this building for nearly half a century. The facade is largely intact, except for the windows, which retain the original placement and size of the openings but have replacement windows. The first-story of the facade has a recessed central entrance that retains the original double-leaf, glass and wood-paneled doors. Flanking the doors are plate-glass windows on masonry bases. On either side of the entrance are sets of four one-over-one sash windows with wood surrounds set on masonry bases. A rounded fabric canopy carries across the entrance and two sets of facade windows. Beneath the canopy the original prism-glass transoms—each with a central square, prism-glass, tilt window opening—remain exposed and intact. The first story is headed by a molded metal cornice. The second story has three pairs of one-over-one sash windows in wood surrounds, each with a fabric awning. Originally these windows were of the metal industrial type. Just below the corbeled brick cornice is a full-width recessed name panel. The facade is crowned by four evenly-spaced brick stacks that rise above the cornice, each surmounted by a ball. On the west elevation is a row of square windows at second-story height; the first- and second-story windows on the east elevation have been enclosed, and a metal stair leads to a second-floor entrance. In the 1940s or early 1950s Dixie Grocery Company added

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to the rear of their building—on what had earlier been the site of the Johnson Ice and Fuel Company—a large brick warehouse that extended to East Sycamore Street. The three-story-plus-basement addition is six bays wide along East Sycamore Street and eight bays deep along North Poplar Street. The north elevation has a single pedestrian door and one loading door. The east elevation has four loading doors—one that is much larger than the others—and an exterior metal stair to the upper two floors. The building has industrial metal tilt windows on the north, east, and west elevations. Later addresses for the warehouse have been 224 East Sycamore Street and 117 North Poplar Street. Around 1975-1980, John J. Anderson, then the owner of 235 East Main Street, built this one-story brick addition to the Dixie Grocery Company building. Intended to be used separately, and given the address 233 ½ East Main Street, it nevertheless shared the west wall of the earlier building, and from the beginning there were doors providing interior access between the old and new parts of the building. Tucked behind the overpass railing, the one-story addition features a door at the east end of the facade, a bowed window with wood panels above the glass, and a metal-sheathed hipped roof with west-end corner post sheltering the storefront. The Army Recruiting office was one of the early occupants (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 65; Harpe, *Lincoln County Revisited*, 27; Heavner Interview, June 30, 2005; Anderson Interview, June 30, 2005).

### EAST MAIN STREET (South Side)

**Carolina First National Bank**  
102 East Main Street  
1977

Noncontributing building

When built, the three-story masonry and glass building replaced the ca. 1921 Classical Revival-style First National Bank (which originally was located on the opposite corner at 101 East Main Street) and two adjacent ca. 1905 brick commercial buildings on East Main Street. The name of the bank changed frequently: it opened as the Carolina First National Bank, then it became North Carolina National Bank, then Nations Bank, and finally Bank of America. In 2002 Bank of America moved to another location downtown. The main banking area remains vacant, but most of the rest of the building is used for county offices. The modern building is sheathed primarily with aggregate-concrete beveled panels, but there are metal-framed glass doors and windows, and the lower walls flanking the recessed corner entrance are white travertine. Wrapping around the northwest corner of the building, the third floor is supported by three, two-story aggregate-concrete piers.

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Lincolnton Commercial Historic District  
Lincoln County, North Carolina**Ramseur Hardware Company**

Contributing building

110 East Main Street  
1903

The two-story brick building has a completely remodeled storefront, but the second-floor level is intact. The recessed entrance and flanking display windows are metal-framed glass. At the west end of the storefront, a wood-framed glass door leads to the second floor. The transom area above the storefront has been covered with boarding laid in a herringbone pattern. The second story is divided into two bays by plain brick pilasters. Each bay has a pair of one-over-one sash windows with a broad segmental-arched lintel. Above the pair of windows is a panel created by a raised brick border with accented corner blocks. At the top of each bay is a simple corbeled cornice. The rear of the building has a central segmental-arched doorway and segmental-arched windows, most of which have been bricked-up. When it closed in 1983, Ramseur Hardware was one of the city's longest-running businesses. Henry E. and F. B. Ramseur founded the hardware company on the corner of North Court Square and North Aspen Street. After shifting ownership and a move to West Main Street in 1890, Ramseur Hardware settled into a new building on East Main Street (110) that Annie Michael Hoke had just built at a cost of \$3,000. The business remained at this location for the next eighty years. In 1928 E. Carr Heavner became part owner, and in 1948 he became sole owner of Ramseur Hardware. The business then remained in Heavner family ownership until it closed (Sanborn Map, 1902, 1906; *Lincoln County Pictures 3*; *Lincoln Times-News*, January 31, 1983).

**R. S. Reinhardt Building III**

Contributing building

114 East Main Street  
ca. 1905; 1923; last quarter twentieth century

Sanborn Maps suggest that this two-story brick building—now stuccoed—was erected between 1902 and 1906. If so, it must have been remodeled by R. S. Reinhardt, for the recessed block at the center of the upper facade bears his name and the date 1923. In its early years, the building housed a furniture store and then a hardware store. In 1921 the Belk-Johnson department store opened here. In 1923 it became Belk-Shrum, remaining at this location until ca. 1930, when the store moved to its new location at the northwest corner of East Main and North Academy streets. Among subsequent occupants was the A & P Food Store in the 1950s. Old photographs show that the building's facade was sheathed with tapestry brick, had a recessed entrance with flanking display windows and a prism-glass transom. The second story was composed of four one-over-one sash windows, a brick panel above the windows, and a small cornice with a shaped parapet. In the last quarter of the twentieth century, the facade was stuccoed and the storefront was altered. However, remaining intact are the size and placement of the second-floor windows, the name/date block, and the shaped parapet. The rear elevation has a central segmental-arched door and segmental-arched windows, now mostly bricked-up (Sanborn Map, 1902, 1906 1911,

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Lincolnton Commercial Historic District  
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1921, 1929; 1957 City Directory; LCHA Calendar, 1994).**Eagle 5, 10, & 25 Cent Store**

2 Contributing buildings

116-118 East Main Street, 121 East Water Street

116 - ca. 1900; ca. 1905 (121); ca. 1950

118 - 1906; ca. 1930

This two-story brick building has a tangled history. The front half of 116 was built between 1896 and 1902; by 1906 the rear half, extending to East Water Street (121 East Water Street), had been added. The East Main Street facade of the two-story brick building was three bays wide and was notable for its elaborate classical cornice topped by a triangular pediment that projected upward from the center third of the facade. The rear half of 116 has segmental-arched sash windows along either side and a remodeled south-end elevation with a central double-leaf door at the head of a set of eight steps. The second floor has three two-over-two sash windows with flat heads. Sanborn maps indicate that 118 was being erected in 1906. Known as the Grigg Building, it was a rare three-story commercial building in Lincolnton. Early photographs show that the facade of the brick building was relatively simple and was four bays wide. According to local tradition, a fire broke out on the second floor of the Grigg Building in 1929. However, a newspaper report the day after the fire makes clear that it actually occurred on March 2, 1930. Before the combined efforts of the Lincolnton, Hickory, Gastonia, and Cherryville fire companies extinguished the fire, it had heavily damaged the Grigg Building and destroyed the adjacent Baker Building at 120 East Main Street. Although 116 was not damaged by the fire itself, its roof was severely impaired when a collapsing wall from the Grigg Building crashed into it, leaving a hole. At the time of the fire, Lander Hardware Company occupied 116, and the Square Store occupied 118, with the Odd Fellow's Hall located on the third floor. The Grigg Building was soon rebuilt as a two-story brick structure with a plain, three-bay-wide facade with pairs of one-over-one sash windows. Around 1950, the facade of 116 was replaced to match that of 118, except that it was only two bays wide. From at least 1936 to 1960, 118—and then the combined 116 and 118—was the Eagle 5, 10, and 15 Cent Store. The building has two storefronts, each with metal-framed glass recessed doors and windows. At the west end, a door leads to the stair to the second floor. The first story is sheltered by a continuous fabric awning. A continuous brick sill runs across the base of the windows, but they have individual soldier-course-brick lintels. The eastern three windows are boarded-up. The most decorative aspect of the facade is a subtle brickwork treatment. At the center of each set of windows, soldier bricks in three rows are laid up in a stepped formation, rising from the lintel and dropping from the sill. The building's cornice consists only of a soldier course of bricks and a tile coping (Sanborn Map, 1896, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1956 City Directory; Heavner Interview, June 17, 2005; *Lincoln County News*, March 3, 1930; Harpe, *Lincoln County*, 13; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 74; Photos from Lincolnton Business and Community Development Office).

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Lincolnton Commercial Historic District  
Lincoln County, North Carolina**B. C. Moore Store**

Contributing building

120 East Main Street  
ca. 1930

E. C. Baker had a simple two-story brick building erected on this site in 1906 to house his furniture and undertaking business, a typical combination of businesses during the early twentieth century. However, on March 2, 1930, the 1906 building was destroyed by fire. Soon thereafter a new two-story brick building was erected. For more than half a century, the building was used as the B. C. Moore Store, in later years simply called Moore's. Probably during the 1970s, the facade above storefront level was sheathed with corrugated metal, and the storefront was sheltered by a corrugated metal shed-roofed canopy. These have been removed in recent years. The storefront, now shaded by a fabric awning, has an off-center recessed entrance with two metal-framed glass doors. Extending from either side of the entrance are plate-glass display windows. A small, easternmost bay has been enclosed. Its original use has not been determined. The second floor is eight bays wide divided into two halves of four bays each. In each half, the one-over-one sash windows with transoms are arranged in a row with a single window, two pairs of windows, and then a single window. A recessed brick panel carries across each half of the facade above the windows (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County Pictures 1*; *Lincoln County Pictures 3*; *Lincoln County News*, March 3, 1930; Harpe, *Lincoln County*, 13; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 74).

**Wampum Department Stores**

Contributing building

124-132 East Main Street  
ca. 1905; ca. 1915

The two-story stuccoed-brick building at the southwest corner of East Main Street (128-132) and South Academy Street was erected between 1902 and 1906, when there was a tremendous surge in the construction of brick buildings along the south side of the 100 block of East Main Street. A photograph made soon after it was built shows that the building was the Wampum Department Stores, consisting of a dry goods and boots and shoes (general) store and a grocery store. Intended to serve the employees of the Wampum (cotton) Mill, which stood at the corner of South Flint and East Lincoln streets, it also accommodated the shopping needs of the general public. Between 1911 and 1921, 124 East Main Street was built as an addition to the original building. In 1916, the Wampum Departments Stores became the Abernethy and Thompson Store, which, in 1921, became Efirds Department Store until the 1930s. When Efirds vacated the building, it became a retail drugstore, which it remained—under several different owners—until recent years. During the 1940s and 1950s it was known as Lincoln Cut Rate Drugs; subsequent to that it was simply Lincoln Drugs. In the mid twentieth century, the building also served as a community meeting place, with a large dining room and kitchen on the second floor. Originally the Italianate-style building had a fancy storefront and an exposed brick second-story facade with a round-



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arched window in the center with a keystone lintel and a granite sill. The center window was enframed by corbeled half pilasters. The outer two bays of the original block had a pair of one-over-one sash windows with a granite sill and an Italianate cornice. Two corbeled string courses ran across the facade above the windows, and the cornice was similarly corbeled. Above the center bay was a segmental-arched parapet on brackets backed by a slightly taller corbeled parapet. When the addition was made to the west end of the building, it continued the same detailing as the original section. During the mid twentieth century, the storefronts were modernized with plate-glass windows and metal-framed glass for the primary entrance. The second story of the facade was stuccoed, but all details remained (though not as crisply), except for the window cornices. Probably during the 1970s, the facade was sheathed with metal. At that time the parapet was removed. During the last two decades, the metal facade was removed, once again revealing original, though stuccoed, detailing. The east elevation along South Academy Street retains its segmental-arched windows; those on the rear have been bricked-up (Sanborn Map, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Stroup; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 74; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 315; Photos from Lincolnton Business and Community Development Office).

### (Intersection with South Academy Street)

**Lawing's Drug Store/Lawing and Costner Drug Store**  
202-210 East Main Street  
ca. 1905; ca. 1935

Contributing building

Dr. John M. Lawing and a Dr. Means started a drug store business in 1867 on West Court Square. Later the company, then known as Lawing's Drug Store, moved to the southeast corner of East Main and South Academy streets. Sanborn maps show that a drugstore was at this location at least as early as 1885. J. M. Lawing died in 1894, at which point his son, Dr. Karl L. Lawing, entered the business, continuing for forty years until his death. Between 1902 and 1906 the building at the corner of East Main and South Academy streets—part of the present building—was enlarged or rebuilt. In addition to the drug store, it housed a variety of offices and on the second floor. In 1914, B. P. Costner bought an interest in the business, and the name changed to Lawing and Costner Drug Store. After K. L. Lawing's death in 1934, Costner bought Lawing's interest in the business. It may have been at this time—Sanborn maps indicate it was between 1929 and 1941—that the building tripled in size and took on its present nine-bay facade. The building's storefronts have changed more than once, with the present appearance dating from post 1986. The corner storefront has a central recessed entrance with multi-paned transom and flanking windows. The other two storefronts each have an entrance at the west end, with two sash windows east of the entrance. The recessed entrance of the center storefront also has a door to the stair leading to the second floor. A frieze with name panels and a cornice carry across all three storefronts. The nine-bay second story is divided into three sections of three one-over-one sash windows. Above each section is a slightly recessed brick panel with a white block at each corner. The

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second story of the west elevation along South Academy Street retains segmental-arched sash windows with fabric awnings. The second floor of the rear elevation has segmental-arched door and window openings; many of those on the first floor have been enclosed (Sanborn Map, 1885, 1890, 1896, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935; Sherrill, 416).

### Commercial Building

Contributing building

[no street address, currently part of 210]  
ca. 1930

Between 1929 and 1941 a one-story brick building was erected. First listed simply as a store, in the 1950s it was the Lincolnton Building and Loan Association. The building's facade consists of a segmental-arched doorway at the west end and two segmental-arched windows to the east. The building now interconnects with 110 East Main Street, the Jonas Law Firm (Sanborn Map, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

### Jonas Building

Contributing building

212 East Main Street  
ca. 1950

The two-story brick building was erected between 1941 and 1957, replacing a two-story frame dwelling that had stood on the site since at least 1906. The front of the building has a gable roof with stepped-parapet gable ends. The eight-bay-wide facade has Flemish-bond brickwork on the second story and one-over-one sash windows. A pent roof carries across the entire storefront. Although most of the building is Colonial Revival in style, the first floor has modern metal-framed glass doors and windows with a solid frieze and base. The west half has a row of stone pilasters in front of the windows, while a door at the east end leads to the second story. In the 1950s this was known as the Jonas Building. The first floor housed the Winn Dixie Super Markets, while on the second floor were a variety of offices, including those of Jonas and Jonas Attorneys (now located at 210 East Main Street) (Sanborn Map, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

### NORTH POPLAR STREET (West Side)

### Carolina and North Western Railroad Freight Depot

Contributing building

211-213 North Poplar Street  
ca. 1929

The Carolina and North Western Railroad was the successor line to the Chester and Lenoir Railroad that

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reached Lincolnton in 1881. It was the second line to service Lincolnton, the first being the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad—later the Seaboard Airline Railroad—that arrived in 1860. By 1884 the narrow gauge railroad extended 109 miles from Chester, S. C. to Lenoir, N. C. The rail line carried both freight and passengers to the towns and mills along the South Fork and Catawba rivers. When the rail line converted to a standard gauge in 1897, the name was changed to the Carolina and North Western Railroad. The original depot, no longer standing, was located at the southeast corner of South Academy and East Church streets. The freight depot in the 200 block of North Poplar Street was built around 1929 and continued to be used as such until the early 1960s. The tracks that ran west of the depot were removed and the Marcia H. Cloninger Rail-Trail created in 1998. The depot is a long, one-story, German-sided building with a hipped roof. Probably in the 1940s the concrete platform that extended south of the depot was enclosed with corrugated metal and a gable roof, and an open concrete dock was extended southward to East Sycamore Street. Wood freight doors remain along the west side of the depot, along with the attached, hooded mail box and the signal mast with its ladder. A round window on both the east and west elevations near the north end of the depot denote the building's restrooms. A chimney rises near the north end. The north end has a pair of six-over-six sash windows and a wood-paneled door with a three-light transom. The east elevation has a pair of six-over-six sash windows, two pedestrian doors, two loading doors, and a wooden deck along most of the original section of the depot. Since the depot ceased being used by the railroad, it has housed several small shops and businesses, but is currently being used for storage (Sanborn Map, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; LCHA Calendar, 1998).

### **Caboose**

Noncontributing object

A Norfolk Southern Railway Company caboose stands on the ground at the south end of the east side of the depot (away from the track). Its age is not known, but according to the current owner of the depot, it was never a Carolina and North Western Railroad Railroad caboose. Following the railroad theme was moved to the site in the early 1980s to be used as a wine and cheese store called "The Jolly Trolley" (Fullerton Interview).

### **(Intersection with East Pine Street)**

#### **Vacant Lot**

Northwest corner of North Poplar and East Pine streets

From at least 1911 through 1941, the Lincoln Ginnery Company building was located on this site. The date of its demolition is not known (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941).

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Lincoln County, North Carolina**Lincoln Ginnery Company Seed House**

Contributing building

[no street number, now part of 319 North Poplar Street]  
ca. 1910

The one-story frame building with corrugated metal siding has a broad gable roof and two-over-two sash windows. It appears to be the cotton seed house associated with the Lincoln Ginnery Company, as shown on Sanborn maps from 1911 through 1941. The building is now used by the business that occupies the adjacent Banner Roller Mills building.

**Banner Roller Mills**

Contributing building

319 North Poplar Street  
1908Contractor, carpenter - C. H. Harrill, Lincolnton  
Foreman, mason - Bill McAllister

Around 1900 T. J. Ramseur and his sons, R. J., J. J., and George, operating as Ramseur Brothers, opened a flour mill north of town. When that proved to be a bad location for the business, the company moved to North Poplar Street and built a three-story, weatherboarded frame, flour mill with an attached one-story brick engine house. A documentary photograph shows the original appearance of the building. C. H. Harrill was the contractor and foreman of the six carpenters who worked on the building, and Bill McAllister was the foreman of the three masons. Sanborn maps show that as early as 1911 the operation was known as the Banner Roller Mills. The mill originally was powered by a coal-fired steam engine; later that engine was replaced by a diesel engine and electricity. Ramseur Brothers operated the mill for only a few years until they were replaced by a corporation. Around 1923 that corporation was forced into bankruptcy due to the falling price of wheat. In 1925 a partnership composed of Calvin Carpenter and his son, Silas S. Carpenter, J. L. Hallman, and W. B. Mullen bought the property. Silas S. Carpenter served as manager from 1925 until his death in 1948, after which Everett T. Mullen became general manager. Banner Roller Mills continued as a flour mill until the early 1960s, when the building was converted to a feed mill. On September 30, 1977, a fire nearly destroyed the third story of the mill and much of its equipment, after which the building ceased to function as a mill. After the fire, a low-pitched gable roof, of the same pitch as the original roof, was added above the second story, and the frame building was sheathed with corrugated metal siding. Windows are one-over-one, two-over-two, and four-over-four sash. The east facade has a shed-roofed porch which shelters two entrances, each with a multi-light transom. On the first floor of the two-story frame section of the mill (the second floor was not accessible), original heavy wood posts with collars support horizontal beams. Also intact is the unusual system of graduated framing between joists at the north end of the building that created the hoppers that funneled flour from the upper stories to the first. The one-story brick engine house at the south end of the frame building survives and has been converted to an office for the current occupant,

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Hoyles's Hearth and Home. At the north end of the two-story section of the mill is a long row of one-story, corrugated-metal-sheathed frame, flour warehouses. The first section was built between 1911 and 1921, and other sections were added until the 1940s. Originally a railroad siding ran along the rear (west side) of the building, but the tracks were removed in the last decade (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; Mullen Interview; Mullen History; Hoyle, *Lincoln County*, 50; Brown and York, 159). The integrity of the Banner Roller Mills was reduced with the loss of the third story. Nevertheless, the replacement of the gable roof with one of the same pitch, the survival of significant interior detailing on the first floor—especially the unusual structural system for funneling the flour—and the survival of both the one-story brick engine house and the string of one-story warehouse rooms provide sufficient overall integrity so that the property continues to contribute to the historic character of the district.

### **EAST SYCAMORE STREET (North Side)**

#### **Masonic Building**

Contributing building

119 East Sycamore Street  
ca. 1920

The facade of the two-story brick building is stuccoed. The form of the storefront is probably original, but the Colonial Revival detailing is probably due to a remodeling. The storefront has a deeply recessed center entrance with a wood-frame glass door with sidelights and a leaded glass transom. The entrance is flanked by glass display windows framed with classical wood posts and a paneled base. The second floor has a row of four one-over-one wood-framed sash windows and a recessed panel between the windows and the roof line. Within the panel is a recessed block that says "Masonic Building 1851 1938." An outside stair on the west elevation leads to the second floor. The west side and rear of the building have segmental-arched door and window openings. In the 1920s the building was used as a bicycle and auto repair shop (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929).

### **EAST WATER STREET (North Side)**

For discussion of **121 East Water Street**, see 116 East Main Street.

#### **Vacant Lot**

From at least 1911 through 1985, a two-story brick building occupied this site—the south end of the lot that also contains, at its north end, the building at 120 East Main Street. Initially the building housed the coffins and undertaking supplies for the E. C. Baker Furniture and Undertaking business located at 120 East Main Street. Later it was a roller covering shop.

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Lincoln County, North Carolina**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

133 East Water Street  
ca. 1910

The facade of the one-story brick building is largely intact. At the center of the facade, the deeply recessed entrance has a double-leaf, wood-framed glass door with a transom. On either side there are tall, wood-framed glass shop windows. The base and upper half of the windows have been covered over with wood paneling. Above the storefront, a recessed, corbeled panel carries across the facade. Original openings have been changed on the rear of the building. The west elevation was brick veneered after the removal, post 1985, of the adjacent building. Initially this small building was a warehouse, but from at least 1921 through 1941 it was a tin shop (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941).

**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

[no street number] East Water Street  
ca. 1910

The one-story brick building originally had a segmental-arched center door, now bricked-up. Flanking the former door are segmental-arched six-over-six sash windows, currently covered with vinyl siding. The upper facade has a recessed, corbeled panel. Originally the building was a warehouse, in the late 1920s it was a store, and by the early 1940s it was a grocery warehouse, apparently interconnected to the adjacent building at 116 South Academy Street (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941).

**EAST WATER STREET (South Side)****Hawkins and Proctor Furniture Company**

Contributing building

110-112 East Water Street  
Late 1920s

Floyd Corriher had this two-story brick building erected for rental purposes. The second floor was used as the office of a cotton broker. For several decades Hawkins and Proctor Furniture Company occupied the first story. The building remains largely intact. The storefront consists of an off-center, double-leaf, glass-and-wood-paneled entrance flanked by decorative wood pilasters. On either side of the entrance are plate-glass display windows set on a brick base. At the east end of the facade, a single-leaf, glass-and-wood-paneled door leads to the second floor (112). A decorative wood pilaster separates it from the adjacent display window. The prism-glass transom that originally topped the storefront has been covered by wood boarding and an overlay of lattice. It is not known whether the original glass remains intact beneath the wood. The three bays of the second story have one-over-one sash windows—a single window in the center with a pair of windows on either side. Above the windows a concrete name panel

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stretches across most of the width of the facade. One-over-one sash windows remain near the front of the east elevation; the west elevation has been stuccoed (Corriher Interview; Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory).

**Lincoln Motors Office**

Contributing building

114 East Water Street  
ca. 1940

This diminutive, one-story brick building was erected to serve as the office for Lincoln Motors when it was located at 116 East Water Street. The facade has a center door with nine lights over wood panels, which serves as the sole entrance to the office. Flanking the door are plate-glass windows, and across the top of the door and the west window are twelve-light transoms. The east transom has been replaced with an air conditioning unit. The east elevation has one plate-glass window. A shed roof running downward from west to east appears to be an addition (Corriher Interview; Sanborn Map, 1929, 1941).

**Lincolnton Baptist Church/Lincoln Motors**

Contributing building

116 East Water Street  
1884; ca. 1925

In 1884 the congregation of Lincolnton Baptist Church completed construction of their building on East Water Street. It was a small gable-front church, three bays wide, with plain classical pilasters on the facade, arch-headed door and window openings, and a circular window in the pedimented gable end. The congregation used the building until 1921, when they sold it prior to their move into their new building—(former) First Baptist Church/Lincoln Cultural Center—on the northeast corner of East Main and Cedar streets. Initially the former church building on East Water Street was used as a tin shop, but soon it was converted to Lincoln Motors' used car dealership, which it remained for at least two decades. The upper half of the facade's three bays is enclosed and stuccoed. In the lower half, the center bay has a double-leaf, glass-and-wood-paneled entrance surrounded by wood-framed plate-glass windows on a brick base and a transom. The east bay has a replacement window set into the earlier show windows. The west bay is largely hidden from view by the Lincoln Motors Office (114 East Water Street), erected in front ca. 1940. The church's gable roof burned in the 1930 fire of the Rhodes and Corriher Sales Stable and was replaced by a flat roof (Corriher Interview; Hood, National Register nomination for (former) First Baptist Church, 8.2-3; *Lincoln County News*, July 31, 1930; Sanborn Map, 1885, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941).

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**Commercial Building**

Contributing building

118 East Water Street  
ca. 1925

The little-altered one-story brick building has a recessed brick panel across the upper facade with a simple corbeled brick course above it. The brick storefront surround is slightly recessed from the brickwork of the upper facade. At the center of the storefront is the deeply recessed entrance with a double-leaf, glass-and-wood-paneled door and enclosed transom. Flanking the entrance are wood-framed display windows set on a brick base. Transoms above the windows are enclosed. In its early years, the building was used as a meat market; by the late 1950s it was a lawn mower repair shop (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; Corriher Interview).

**Rhodes and Corriher Sales Stable and Implement Company**

Contributing building

124-128 East Water Street  
1930-1931; 1949-1950Architect (1930) - Martin L. Hampton, Hickory  
Contractor (1930) - Herman-Sipe Co., Inc., Hickory

The Rhodes and Corriher Company has a long history on this block. Around 1905 R. F. Beal and Company built a two-story frame feed and (mule) sales stable at this site. Beal was a partner in several ventures with Charles H. Rhodes, who had been sheriff of Lincoln County in the late 1890s. By 1921 the business had become the C. H. Rhodes Sales Stables. According to Ted Corriher, present owner of the business and grandson of founder Charles Rhodes, around 1924 the Rhodes and Corriher partnership was formed. Rhodes's new partner, Floyd Corriher, was his son-in-law, married to Rhodes's only child, May. The large frame livery stable burned to the ground in late July 1930. This noteworthy fire also damaged a considerable number of surrounding properties. Almost immediately, the company rebuilt, this time with a two-story brick building, which remains remarkably well preserved. Brick pilasters that rise to just above the second-story windows and end with beveled concrete caps give the facade a modern feeling. Otherwise, the five-bay-wide building is traditional in form and detail. The symmetrically arranged facade has a first story with three wood-framed plate-glass windows in the center office area, bordered by two of the pilasters. Squeezed by pilasters into a narrow space on either side of the center of the building are pedestrian doors with a nine-light upper half and a wood-paneled lower half. The two outside bays, flanked by pilasters, hold vehicular doors of forty-eight panels, the top two rows of eight filled with glass. The second story has a row of nine one-over-one sash windows, divided by the pilasters into groups of three, one, and two. Above the windows, the stepped parapet has a brick-bordered stone name and date block that also includes the names of the building's architect and contractor. The east elevation has two rows of industrial windows. The west elevation has a second-story row of windows that cannot be seen from the front of the building. The rear of the building has a



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vehicular door and a largely collapsed brick and frame mule pen. A large covered opening at the second-floor level allowed hay to be dropped from the loft into the pen. Inside, an office is in the center front of the building. The vehicular door at the east end of the facade led to a ramp to the hay loft. The vehicular door at the west end led to the first story stable in the back two-thirds of the building. Iron rings to which mules could be tied still remain in the stable walls. Originally the floor of the stable was wood over dirt. Later, with tractors and other equipment occupying the space, most of the floor was covered with concrete. Initially, mules, harnesses, and wagons were sold from the two-story building. In 1949-1950 a large one-story addition was built to the west side of the 1930-1931 building, using walls that were already present on two sides. A gas station and a barbeque stand had earlier occupied the site. The five-bay facade of the one-story addition has plain brickwork with a soldier-course brick band and tile coping across the top. The storefront has a center double-leaf glass-and-wood entrance with transom, framed by rounded walls composed of brick headers. The remainder of the facade has four large, two-part display windows, two on either side of the entrance. Later in the 1950s, a long, metal-sheathed frame wing with a gable roof was added to the rear of the 1949-1950 addition. Tractors and all types of farm equipment were sold from the 1949-1950 addition. The company had started selling tractors in 1940—while still selling mules—but it was not until after World War II that tractors really began to supercede mules. Rhodes and Corriher sold Allis Chalmers products, which included a small tractor that became popular with farmers. They began trading in their mules for tractors, and by the mid 1950s, Rhodes and Corriher stopped selling mules altogether. The one-story addition became the sales center, while the original two-story building was used for equipment storage, including tractors in the former hay loft. The business is still active (Corriher Interview; *Lincoln County News*, July 31, 1930; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 315; Sanborn Map, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941).

**Blacksmith Shop**  
ca. 1940

Contributing building

From at least 1911, a blacksmith shop stood at the rear of the lot along East Church Street behind the sales stable. Around 1940 the present building was erected. It is a one-story, metal-sheathed frame building with a broad gable roof (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; *Lincoln County News*, July 31, 1930; Corriher Interview).

**(Intersection with South Academy Street)****Karl L. Lawing House**  
212 East Water Street  
ca. 1905

Contributing building

This was the home of Dr. Karl Lander Lawing, a pharmacist for forty years, whose drug store stood

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nearby at the southeast corner of East Main and South Academy streets. The house appears to have been built between 1902 and 1906, at the same time that the drug store was enlarged or rebuilt. In 1929 the house was listed on the Sanborn Map as a boarding house. K. L. Lawing died in 1934, but the Lawing family continued to live in the house until at least the late 1950s. It is now a law office. The two-story frame house has changed little through the years. It is an L-shaped dwelling with weatherboard siding and a gabled roof with cresting at the gable peaks. Windows are two-over-two sash, and round-arched windows, now boarded shut, are in the gable ends. An interior brick chimney rises from the juncture of the two wings of the house. The front entrance on East Water Street has a Craftsman door surrounded by sidelights and a transom. Originally a one-story, hip-roofed porch wrapped from the entrance bay around the west end of the house. Another one-story, hip-roofed porch ran along the east side of the house. Both have been altered. Most of the front and west-side porch has been enclosed, and the open section at the front entrance has a single post and an iron railing. The east-side porch has also been enclosed. The rear bay of this was enclosed between 1929 and 1941, at which time an open, shed roofed addition was built on the east side of the enclosed bay (Sanborn Map, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935).

### Garage

Noncontributing building

Behind (south of) the house stands a one-story frame garage with a gable roof and a storage room at the north end. It was built after 1941, possibly in the last quarter century.

### Parking Lot

East of the house is a paved parking lot that serves the current law practice that occupies the house.

### Overpass

Noncontributing structure

East of the Lawing House parking lot, the street becomes an overpass for the railroad tracks that once ran beneath the road and were converted to the Marcia H. Cloninger Rail-Trail in 1998. The overpass, rebuilt in 1983 and known as the Ira Cline Bridge, has metal side railings.

### Coca Cola Bottling Company

Contributing building

230 East Water Street  
1913; ca. 1935

The Lincolnton Coca Cola Bottling Company was established in 1913 and its two-story brick plant was erected at the southwest corner of East Water and South Poplar streets. The building survives, but has been added to on several occasions and remodeled. Initially, a one-story storage room was at the south

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end (rear) of the two-story building. All subsequent additions were one-story. By 1929 another room was added to the rear. This space and the one just north of it were being used as garage bays for the delivery trucks. By 1941 another room, for storage, was added to the south end. There were also additions, probably made ca. 1935, to the west side: the Moderne style office facing East Water Street, a second room of unknown use behind it, and a garage and loading room south of it and extending westward. Special features of the Moderne style office include curved front corners, brick quoins around the entrance, and vent openings above the front windows filled with white coke bottles. Around 1950 a one-story room with a curved east corner and large display windows, which allowed sidewalk viewers to see the bottling process taking place inside, was added to the front of the two-story section of the building. In recent years, a shed-roofed addition was added to the west end of the building. In the last quarter century the building has ceased being used by Coca Cola, and although the overall form and many of the details remain intact, the front display windows have been mostly enclosed, some of the openings on the east elevation has been enclosed, and the coke-bottle shapes in the office vents have been removed. Behind the building is a parking area (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941; Collins and Dellinger; *Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935).

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Architect/Builder

Kistler, Henry A. - builder and brick mason (Reinhardt Building)  
Harrill, C. H. - builder and carpenter (Banner Roller Mills)  
McAllister, Bill - foreman and mason (Banner Roller Mills)  
Carlton, C. W. - architect (First United Methodist Church, 1919-1920)  
Marsh and Hawkins - architect/engineer (First United Methodist Church, 1956-1957)  
Hampton, Martin L. - architect (Rhodes and Corriher Building, 1930)  
Herman-Sipe Co., Inc. - contractor (Rhodes and Corriher Building, 1930)

#### Summary

The Lincolnton Commercial Historic District is located in Lincolnton, a city of over 10,300 residents in North Carolina's western Piedmont region. Although Lincolnton was established as the county seat of Lincoln County in 1785, no buildings currently in the downtown commercial area predate ca. 1900 (except for two buildings erected in 1884 and ca. 1895 that no longer convey their appearance prior to 1900). Lincolnton developed as a prosperous town during the late eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries. However, in the 1840s, three new counties—Cleveland, Catawba, and Gaston—were created out of Lincoln, reducing Lincoln County's size from its original 1,800 square miles to only 305. Lincolnton struggled to regain economic strength throughout the second half of the nineteenth century until the textile industry took off in the county beginning in 1887. By the turn of the twentieth century, Lincolnton was once again beginning to prosper. The town's population nearly tripled from a meager 828 in 1900 to 2,413 in 1910, and continued from that point to grow, though not with the same speed. Correspondingly, the greatest period of growth in the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District was from 1900 to 1930, accounting for seventy percent of the district's eighty, mostly commercial resources (seventy-five buildings, two structures, three objects). An additional fifteen percent of the district's resources were erected between 1930 and the end of the period of significance in 1955. Since most of the district's buildings were erected during a relatively compact period of time, the range of architectural styles is fairly limited, increasing the strong visual unity of the district. The Classical Revival style (including the Colonial Revival style) and the Commercial Style are most prevalent among the district's buildings, although there are also examples of the Italianate style, the Art Deco style, the Moderne style, and a 1950s' stripped-down version of the earlier Commercial Style. Two buildings in the district, both excellent representatives of the Classical Revival style, are already listed in the National Register. These are the 1921-1923 Lincoln County Courthouse—the most dominant architectural landmark in the district—and the 1919-1920 First United Methodist Church.

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Eighty percent of the district's resources contribute to its historic and architectural character, creating a cohesive unit distinguishable from its surroundings. As Lincolnton's historic commercial center, and as the center of government in Lincoln County since the establishment of Lincolnton as the county seat in 1785, the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District fulfills Criterion A for listing in National Register in the areas of commerce and government. The district also fulfills Criterion C for architectural significance. Its buildings—representing, in particular, numerous good to excellent examples of the Classical Revival style and the Commercial Style—form a well-preserved body that reflects, visually, the half-century during which the district had its greatest period of development. The period of significance for the locally significant Lincolnton Commercial Historic District spans the years from ca. 1900, the date of construction of the first building that still reflects its original appearance, to 1955, the fifty-year cut-off date for properties meeting Criteria A and C. Although Lincolnton's downtown continued to serve as the commercial and governmental center of the city after 1955, that time period is not of exceptional significance.

### Historical Background and Government, Commerce, and Architecture Contexts

The steady influx of pioneers to North Carolina's backcountry during the eighteenth century prompted the General Assembly to repeatedly divide and create counties as a way of establishing more effective government. In 1779 the General Assembly split Tryon County into Rutherford County and Lincoln County. When formed, Lincoln County held 1800 square miles (Brown and York, 246).

During the late eighteenth century and nineteenth century until the 1840s, Lincoln County became one of North Carolina's largest, wealthiest, and most populous counties. It led the state in the value of many farm products, including wheat, orchard products, and dairy products, and was among the top producers of cotton and livestock statewide. In the late eighteenth century, forges and iron furnaces in Lincoln County were among many that were established in the western Piedmont, and by 1840 the county's ironworks lead the industry in North Carolina, producing large quantities of iron castings, bar iron, and wrought iron tools. Other manufacturing activities, such as sawmills, grist mills, tanneries, paper mills, and potteries, enlivened the economy. Of particular significance, around 1813 Michael Schenck established the first successful textile mill in the South. In 1816, it was destroyed by a flood, but three years later Schenck, James Bivins, and John Hoke erected a larger plant, the Lincoln Cotton Mills, on the South Fork of the Catawba River; it operated until the Civil War (Brown and York, 254-256, 258, 260).

After 1779, the General Assembly tried several times, unsuccessfully, to establish a local government in Lincoln County. Eventually, three hundred acres in the county's center were identified as the best site for the seat of government, and on December 29, 1785, the General Assembly ratified an act establishing Lincolnton as the county seat. The site of Lincolnton was well-chosen, for it was in the center of the county; it was on both sides of "the wagon road leading from the Tuckaseegee Ford to Ramsour's Mill and including the forks of the road leading to Cansler's sawmill"; and it was in close

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proximity to the South Fork of the Catawba River, which would prove vital to the textile industry in later years (Brown and York, 246-247).

The county seat was to occupy fifty of the three hundred acres that had already been laid off into squares, streets, blocks, and half-acre lots. Lincolnton's symmetrically arranged grid plan was a modified Lancaster Plan, first used in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It placed a square in the center, on which the courthouse would stand, and four axial streets that, leading from the square, divided the original town into four quadrants. Secondary streets were laid out parallel and perpendicular to the primary, axial streets—East and West Main streets and North and South Aspen streets. The plan remains today, although the lot sizes have changed over time (Brown and York, 247; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 253; Bishir and Southern, 463). Main Street was clearly intended to be Lincolnton's primary artery and, in fact, it has always served as such. Beginning in 1885, Sanborn maps show that East Main Street developed as the commercial center of town, while West Main Street was dominated by residences (Sanborn Maps, 1885, 1890, 1896, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941).

Lincoln County's first courthouse was built of logs in 1785. In 1788 it was replaced by a frame building, which was replaced by a new, presumably frame, courthouse in 1810. In the mid-1850s the fourth courthouse—a two-story, brick, Classical Revival building with Tuscan columns and pilasters, a first story that was stuccoed and scored to resemble stone, and a clock tower with lead-covered dome—was built. It served the county until 1921 (Harpe, *Lincoln County Revisited*, 9; Sherrill, 30).

Lincolnton grew into a prosperous center of trade, culture, and government for the new county. In 1800 forty-eight whites and forty-four slaves lived in the town. By 1816, growth had continued to the point that the General Assembly authorized the laying off of additional lots in the town on land previously set aside, reserving tracts for an academy and a church. By 1820, the number of town lots had expanded from the original 100 to 161. The sale of town lots provided for the construction, ca. 1821, of the Pleasant Retreat Academy for male students; it was followed several years later by the construction of a female academy (Brown and York, 262).

Lincolnton continued to grow. According to the *Lincoln Courier* of July 30, 1845, by that time five attorneys maintained offices along East Main Street, six physicians had their offices along both East and West Main Street, and six merchants surrounded the courthouse. Additionally, the town supported four hotels, four grocers, three tailors, a watchmaker and jeweler, a printer, three saddle and harness makers, five coach factories, five blacksmiths, a cabinetmaker, two tanners, two hat manufacturers, two shoemakers, and a coppersmith, as well as five carpenters and two brickmasons (Brown and York, 263).

However, political developments in the 1840s had a sobering effect on Lincolnton's future. In 1841 Cleveland County was formed out of part of Lincoln County, followed by the creation of Catawba County in 1842 and Gaston County in 1846. Lincoln County was reduced from its original 1,800 square miles to only 305—ten miles wide and thirty miles long. Losing prime farmlands and important factory sites to the new counties resulted in the curtailment of much of the county's momentum for growth. Nevertheless, Lincoln County still retained rich farmland—only less of it—and numerous good sites for future industrial development (Brown and York, 244, 263; Sherrill, 31).

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Growth in Lincoln County's population and economy remained static during the mid-nineteenth century and progressed at a slow pace throughout much of the second half of the century. Prior to 1854, Lincolnton was the second most important town in western North Carolina, after Salisbury, and its commerce drew people from as far away as Charlotte. However, when Charlotte was connected to the North Carolina Railroad in 1854, it gained the important advantage of good transportation for the shipment of agricultural products and manufactured goods. As a result, Charlotte soon became the cotton market for eastern Lincoln County, and Lincolnton lost business. Although Lincolnton retained the business of farmers located north and west of town, those in the east rarely came to town except on legal or court business. For the next several decades, Lincolnton's population and business could barely hold their own. The town's population actually dropped from 848 in 1860 to less than 800 in 1880 (Brown and York, 271; Sherrill, 248).

The 1881 arrival of the Chester and Lenoir Railroad—later the Carolina and North Western Railroad, whose ca. 1929 freight depot stands on North Poplar Street in the historic district—brought some encouragement to late-nineteenth-century economic progress in Lincolnton. Designed to connect Chester, South Carolina, with Lenoir, North Carolina, and towns in between, the new railroad supplemented the rail service already provided by the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton Railroad since 1860 (Brown and York, 270). *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* for 1884 provides other suggestions that progress was in the works. In addition to nine lawyers, ten physicians, three hotels (none still standing), a variety of small-scale industries and thirty merchants—almost double the number in 1872—there were also six sawmills, a marble works, and a lime-making business (essential for masonry construction). Two small cotton factories were hold-overs from pre-Civil War days. For all this, Lincolnton's economy was still dragging in the late 1880s, for in 1887, the editor of the *Lincoln Courier* wrote that "Lincolnton is not dead. Her condition is simply comatose. . . ." (Brown and York, 271).

However, Lincolnton's situation was about to change. In 1887 Gaston County industrialists Daniel E. Rhyne and his brother-in-law, James A. Abernethy, moved to Lincoln County, where they bought an old mill site on the South Fork River just south of Lincolnton, and built the Laboratory Cotton Mill. When that venture proved successful, Rhyne, or Rhyne and Abernethy, built at least five other mills in Lincolnton and the surrounding area during the 1890s and early 1900s. Others entrepreneurs followed in their footsteps, often with assistance from Rhyne, and soon the Lincolnton area became a center for textile manufacturing. By 1904 there were ten cotton mills in the county, and by 1910 there were three more. Growth in the textile industry continued, and in 1933 sixteen mills containing 129,176 spindles and 128 looms employed up to 2,200 operatives. This explosion in Lincoln County's textile industry brought significant growth in population and business to the county seat. Banks were essential to support the financial needs of the expanded industry and commerce, and Lincolnton's first bank, the Bank of Lincolnton, was organized in 1898. The second bank in town, the First National Bank, was established in 1903 (Sherrill, 248, 275, 294; Phillips, National Register nomination for Laboratory Historic District, 8.20, 8.25; *North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory*, 1904, 1910; Brown and

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York, 273).

Around the turn of the twentieth century, Lincolnton began to flourish once more. During the first decade of the new century, the town's population nearly tripled from 828 in 1900 to 2,413 in 1910, and by 1920, its 3,390 residents lived in about 650 houses. By 1930, the population had increased to 3,781 (Brown and York, 273). The development of Lincolnton's downtown—depicted well in the Sanborn fire insurance maps from 1885 to 1941—is a strong indicator of the town's new flush period. Only two buildings predate 1900—the 1884 Lincolnton Baptist Church at 116 East Water Street and the ca. 1895 commercial building at 102 North Court Square—though the current appearance of neither reflects its original date of construction. By far, the greatest period of building in the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District spanned the years from 1900 to 1930, accounting for seventy-two percent (fifty-four) of all buildings currently in the district. A sharp drop in construction occurred after 1930, probably due both to the Depression and to the fact that spaces for building in the district were largely filled by that time. Between 1931 and the end of the period of significance, 1955, twelve buildings were added to the district. Only seven buildings were erected after the mid 1950s, and two of these were auxiliary buildings (a garage and a storage building).

While the Sanborn map series illustrates the growth of Lincolnton's commercial district, other aspects of its development can be seen in the buildings themselves. Since most of the buildings in downtown Lincolnton were erected during a relatively compact period—the three decades between 1900 and 1930—the range of architectural styles is fairly limited, increasing the unified visual appearance of the district. The primary styles represented include the Italianate, the Classical Revival (including the Colonial Revival), the Commercial Style, the Art Deco and Moderne styles, and a 1950s' stripped-down version of the earlier Commercial Style. Of these, the Classical Revival and the Commercial Style are the most prevalent.

Characterized by round- or segmental-arched windows—often with brick hood molds—brick or stone quoins, and projecting, classical cornices that are frequently bracketed, the Italianate style built in Lincolnton's commercial district was a hold-over from the 1860s through the 1880s. The style is rare in Lincolnton's twentieth-century commercial buildings. Rather, as was common in much late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century commercial architecture, style in Lincolnton was often treated as an eclectic, though usually simple, mix of elements borrowed from several popular styles.

The Classical Revival style, nationally popular between ca. 1900 and ca. 1930, made use of details and often temple forms derived from the ancient architecture of Greece and Rome. In its most fully developed form, it was often used—particularly for government buildings and banks—with a monumental scale to denote prominence in the community and a sense of stability and permanence. Another form of classicism, the Colonial Revival style, reflected the classical idiom as used in American architecture during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Commercial Style was popular in Lincolnton from the 1910s through the 1930s. It eschewed the often rich detailing of earlier styles in favor of a more rectilinear form and simple details. Patterned masonry wall surfaces, stepped roof line parapets, and rectangular windows that were often arranged in



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groups were characteristic of the style.

Several district buildings erected between 1930 and 1950 show some evidence of the impact of the modern movement in architecture that was appearing with more frequency in larger cities. In Lincolnton, modernism was expressed in the simplest of terms that reflected primarily the Art Deco and Moderne styles. The Art Deco style was characterized, in part, by smooth wall planes, a sense of verticality, and highly stylized ornamentation often found in window spandrel panels, around entrances, and at the roof line. Where the Art Deco style expressed verticality and angularity, the Moderne style was more horizontal and curvaceous, generally incorporating curved wall surfaces and horizontal bands of windows or decorative motifs. Some of the most recent buildings erected during the district's period of significance, in the 1940s and 1950s, can best be described as a stripped down Commercial Style: starkly simple, mostly one-story buildings with box-like forms, plain brickwork, and often metal-framed glass doors and windows.

### Building Chronology in the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District

In 1885, the first year for which there is a Sanborn map, Lincolnton's courthouse square was surrounded by a combination of one-and-a-half- to three-and-a-half-story houses, the three-story Lincolnton (later North State) Hotel, several one- and two-story stores, and vacant land. Although East Main Street was clearly the main commercial street in Lincolnton, the 100 block still had five large dwellings, one boarding house, and a "shanty" among the one- and two-story stores. There was also still some vacant land. The 200 block was less developed, with only a drug store at the southeast corner. Otherwise, only two large houses occupied the block. The other streets in the district were sparsely built, with a combination of small houses, shops, warehouses, the Baptist church on the south side of the 100 block of East Water Street, and vacant land. A decade later, little had changed in the development of the streets that make up the historic district (Sanborn Map, 1885, 1896).

By 1902, two brick dealerships had opened in Lincolnton, and yet there was still relatively little change in the historic district. However, the oldest (recognizable) building in the district had been erected by ca. 1900 at 104-108 North Court Square. The two-story, two-storefront brick building is unified by a row of one-over-one sash windows with flat-arched lintels across the second story and a corbeled brick cornice. Early occupants included a general store, a dry goods and clothing store, a millinery shop, and for several decades, the local telephone exchange. The 100 block of East Main Street had acquired a two-story brick double building (119-121) on the north side that replaced a two-story dwelling and a one-story store, and, on the south side of the street, a two-story brick dry goods store (114) had replaced a one-story frame store, and a small brick bank had been built midway in the block. At this time, the variety of businesses on East Main Street included three general stores, two dry goods stores, a bank, three groceries and a meat market, a combination furniture store and undertaking business (a common pairing in that period), and stores for wagons and harnesses, agricultural implements, and jewelry. There were also a drug store, a photo gallery, two barber shops, a cobbler's

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shop, a tinware shop, two buildings with offices, the Alexander House (boarding house or hotel), and three dwellings (Sanborn Map, 1902).

During the first decade of the twentieth century, significant changes took place in the district. On the west side of the square, the Reinhardt Block began to take shape. Robert Smith Reinhardt (1858-1925) was a leading citizen of Lincolnton during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Not only was he president of the Elm Grove Cotton Mill, but he also was one of the largest real estate owners in Lincolnton. Reinhardt built numerous buildings in downtown Lincolnton, identifying most of them with a stone block in the upper facade inscribed with his name and often the date of construction. Reinhardt's flagship building, the 1909 Reinhardt Building at 101 West Court Square, is the most stylistically sophisticated commercial building in Lincolnton. The largely intact three-story brick structure with a rounded corner displays some of the best Classical Revival detailing in the district. The first story, which is capped by a full classical cornice, has "rusticated" brickwork with every sixth row of bricks recessed. The windows of the upper two floors have brick flat-arched lintels with stone keystones. The east elevation has remarkable decorative ironwork balconies, and an overhanging classical cornice with brackets crowns the building. For several decades, the post office occupied the first floor, while the upper floors housed a variety of offices. In 1910 and 1913, Reinhardt added two two-story brick buildings to his block, 113 and 103-109. The 1910 building at 113 West Court Square has C. L. Mesker and Company cast iron pilasters marking the recessed entrance and a two-layer transom area. The second story originally had a pair of oriel windows, but within a few years, these were replaced by a pair of flat, triple windows. A corbeled and dentiled cornice heads the building. The first known occupant was the Warlick Furniture Company, which also operated an undertaking business. The third of Reinhardt's buildings in the block, built in 1913, was located between the first two at 103-109 West Court Square. It is distinguished, in part, by its intact Luxfer prism-glass transom across the entire first story composed of ribbed glass with a border of patterned glass designed for Luxfer by Frank Lloyd Wright. The transom is topped by a classical wood cornice that is a continuation of the first-story cornice of the adjacent Reinhardt Building. The upper facade has pairs of sash windows headed by a corbeled brick round arch with stone keystone and a diamond-shaped stone block within the arch bearing the initial "R." The building's cornice is a band of recessed brick panels and two round openings. In its early years, a variety of commercial uses occupied the first floor, while offices were on the second floor (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1911, 1921).

The first decade of the century brought dramatic change to the 100 block of East Main Street. While the north side of the street saw little change during this period, the south side experienced a tremendous evolution. Except for two frame commercial buildings at the west end of the block, the remainder of the block was entirely rebuilt with substantial brick buildings. Most were two stories in height, although one was a single story and another was three stories. Number 116 East Main Street was extended southward to East Water Street. A significant aspect of the transformation was that the south side of the street was now entirely commercial, with no dwellings and no vacant lots. Two of the surviving buildings from that period are the Ramseur Hardware at 110 East Main, which was built in

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1903, and the Wampum Department Stores at 124-132 East Main, erected ca. 1905 and enlarged in 1915. Ramseur Hardware—whose two-bay upper story has plain brick pilasters and two pairs of sash windows with broad, segmental-arched lintels—occupied its East Main Street building for eighty years, making it one of Lincolnton's longest-running businesses. At the east end of the block stands the Wampum Department Stores, one of the city's few buildings of Italianate influence. In the mid-twentieth century, the facade was stuccoed, so that while most of its original features—including a round-arched central window with a keystone lintel and a granite sill, corbeled half pilasters, two corbeled string courses across the upper facade, and a corbeled cornice—remain, they are not as crisp as they appeared originally. The building's segmental-arched, bracketed parapet projecting above the center bay was removed when the facade was sheathed with metal in the 1970s; in recent years, the metal sheathing was removed. The group of stores occupying the building originally was intended to serve primarily the employees of the Wampum Cotton Mill. The building became Efid's Department Store in the 1930s, but beginning in the 1940s, it served as the Lincoln Cut Rate Drugs (later Lincoln Drugs) (Sanborn Map, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921; *Lincoln Times-News*, January 31, 1983; 1957 City Directory; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 74).

South of Main Street, R. F. Beal built a large, frame, sales livery stable with an adjacent carriage repository on the south side of East Water Street, the forerunner of a business that continues today at the same location in the Rhodes and Corriher Company. Across the street three one-story and one two-story brick commercial buildings were erected. (The two-story building was demolished in recent years.) Just east of the livery stable, a small house facing East Water Street was replaced by the Frank Beal House, a one-and-a-half-story frame house whose irregular form recalled the late-nineteenth-century Queen Anne style, but whose detailing reflected the Colonial Revival style. The house, which faces South Academy Street (204), has multiple intersecting gables and dormers with modified Palladian windows and a wraparound porch with Tuscan columns (Sanborn Map, 1906, 1911; Corriher Interview). In the next block, the two-story, L-shaped, weatherboarded-frame Karl L. Lawing House was built at 212 East Water Street. Lawing was a pharmacist whose drug store stood nearby at the southeast corner of East Main and South Academy Streets. The Beal and Lawing houses are the only dwellings in the historic district (Sanborn Map, 1902, 1906; 1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935).

At the northeast edge of the historic district, T. J. Ramseur and his sons built the Banner Roller Mills in 1908. Although the third story of the frame mill was lost in a 1977 fire, other significant features—such as the one-story brick engine house attached to the south end and the row of one-story frame warehouse rooms at the north end—survive. On the interior of the two-story frame section of the mill, the exposed post-and-beam mill construction with its graduated framing between joists that funneled flour from the upper stories to the first, makes this one of the most fascinating industrial buildings in Lincolnton. It survives as the sole flour mill building remaining in Lincolnton and one of the few in the county. (Sanborn Map, 1911; Mullen History; Brown and York, 159).

The 1910s brought a flurry of construction in the district, probably aided by the fact that two additional woodworking plants had been established in Lincolnton. The entire north side of the 100

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block of East Main Street filled with brick buildings—mostly two stories—with the First National Bank at the west end of the block. This Classical Revival building has a modillioned wood cornice with a plain brick parapet across the south, southwest corner, and west elevations. Adjacent to the bank, the two-story commercial building at 103-105 East Main Street hints at the Classical Revival with its second-story windows, which have brick flat arches with stone keystones. The building's wide corbeled cornice features a row of recessed brick panels. The second story of the Childs Block at 107 East Main Street is very similar to that of 103-105 with its sash windows with brick flat-arched and keystone lintels. The two halves of the six-bay-wide second story are treated with some differences—e.g. a molded wood or metal cornice (long since removed) carried across the top of the east windows—to reflect the two separate stores that originally occupied the building. The whole composition is unified by the corbeled building cornice with recessed brick panels like that found on 103-105, only with different proportions. Originally, and for at least two decades, the west half of the building was occupied by the Childs-Wolfe Drug Company; the second floor was used for offices, including the law offices of Childs and Childs and H. A. Jones. Farther down the street, the Rivoli Theatre appeared at 119-121 East Main. By the end of the 1910s, not only were all buildings on the north side of the 100 block of East Main Street brick, but there were no longer any houses. The commercial use of this block had solidified, and by the end of the decade, several of the commercial buildings that now stand on the north side of the 200 block had been erected. Also in the 200 block, the First United Methodist Church (NR 1994) was erected at 201 in 1919-1920. With its Pantheon-like vestibule that addresses both East Main and North Academy streets, it is not only one of the finest Classical Revival buildings in the historic district, but it is also one of the principal architectural landmarks in Lincolnton (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921; LCHA Calendar, 1994; *Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935; Hood, National Register nomination for First United Methodist Church, 7.1).

Buildings were erected elsewhere in the district during the 1910s. Among these were several buildings on East Court Square: a one-story movie theater at 112, simple one-story buildings at 114 and 116-118, the one-story former Lincolnton City Hall and Fire Station at 115, and a three-story commercial building at 119. In addition, the first section of the Coca Cola Bottling plant was built at 230 East Water Street and the Central Candy and Cigar Company building was erected at 205-207 South Academy Street. This two-story brick building expresses the Classical Revival in its distinctive storefront cornice and second-story windows, which include a central window with a round-arched fanlight with a three-layer brick arch with granite keystone and impost blocks, flanked by one-over-one sash windows with rough granite sills and lintels (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 314).

Construction in the district continued at a rapid pace in the 1920s, with a slightly higher number of buildings erected than in the 1910s. Although some of the most significant examples of the Classical Revival style were built during the early part of the decade, this was the time when the simplified Commercial Style came to the forefront, providing the district with much of its current appearance.

Following on the heels of the Classical Revival First United Methodist Church, two other

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excellent examples of the style were constructed in the district. Around 1921 the First National Bank moved to a new building across the street at the southeast corner of East Main Street and East Court Square. The monumental Classical Revival stone-faced building was typical of many banks built in North Carolina during the 1920s. This excellent example of the style was demolished in 1977 to make way for a new, modern bank building (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 67).

Lincoln County built its fifth courthouse in the early 1920s. Plans by architect James A. Salter of Raleigh were adopted in January 1920, and the old courthouse was vacated in May 1921 and demolished. The cornerstone for the new courthouse was laid on September 30, 1921, and county officials moved into the building in June 1923. Bonds worth \$225,000 were issued to pay for the courthouse, but the actual cost came to around \$350,000. While the courthouse was under construction, court offices, or at least some of them, occupied the one-story brick building at 123 East Main Street (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929; Sherrill, 370; National Register nomination, Lincoln County Courthouse).

The 1921-1923 Lincoln County Courthouse (NR, 1977) is not only the most dominant architectural landmark in the historic district, but also commands the center of Lincolnton. From its site on the courthouse square, its primary east and west elevations form dramatic termini to both East Main Street and West Main Street. The secondary north and south elevations face North Aspen Street and South Aspen Street, respectively. The scale, stone facing, and Classical Revival styling of the courthouse render it Lincolnton's most monumental building. The ashlar-faced three-story "Temple of Justice" has a tall, five-bay-wide center section whose gable roof with classical detailing rises above pedimented Doric porticoes facing east and west and three-bay-wide, flat-roofed wings stretching north and south. The secondary entrances to the building at the ends of the north and south wings are accented by single-bay Doric porticoes that echo the massive east and west porticoes.

The simplified, rectilinear Commercial Style is seen in many one- and two-story buildings erected during the 1920s. The two-story building at 107-109 East Court Square, erected ca. 1925, is another commercial building erected by R. S. Reinhardt in downtown Lincolnton. It has two storefronts with intact recessed entrances and a four-bay second story with plain one-over-one sash windows and two recessed brick panels denoting the two halves of the building (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929; Heavner Interview, May 24, 2005). C. L. Goodson, C. A. Jones, and P. A. Hoyle built a two-story brick building at 101 North Court Square in 1924. The men had offices for their fuel oil company on the second floor, which is a good example of the Commercial Style. Plain one-over-one sash windows on the second story of the Commercial Style building are outlined in header bricks with white concrete blocks at the top corners. The same format is used for the office entrance at the east end of the north elevation and the upper-facade marble panel that holds the names of the owners and the date. Soldier-brick string courses with concrete blocks at the ends run across the North Court Square and North Aspen Street elevations and the southwest corner. The first-story originally had large open bays and was used as an automobile service station—a sign of the times—where cars drove in on the North Court Square side, passed beneath the corner of the building, and exited on the North Aspen Street side (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929;

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Ramseur Interview).

The Commercial Style was used for the Dixie Grocery Company building erected at 235 East Main Street (at the northwest corner with North Poplar Street) in 1924. Prism-glass transoms run above the first-story center entrance and flanking windows and three paired windows are on the second story of the facade. The cornice features a full-width recessed name panel with a corbeled upper edge and four stacks that rise above the roof line, each surmounted by a ball (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 65). West of the Dixie Grocery Company on East Main Street are two other early-twentieth-century brick buildings (227-233) in the Commercial Style. The two-story building, used as the Grand Theatre until around 1940, is four bays wide with concrete sills and lintels on the second-story windows. Above each window is a recessed brick panel, and the cornice area has several layers of simple brick corbeling and pilasters at each end of the building that rise above the roof line. The long, one-story building is divided by brick pilasters into three bays, with the two larger, outer bays having a centered, recessed, masonry name panel with a small concrete block at each corner in the upper facade. For several decades, during which time the storefronts were deeply recessed from the facade, the building was used for automobile sales and service (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1929; Harpe, *Lincoln County Revisited*, 27, 63).

Another representative of the Commercial Style is the Hawkins and Proctor Furniture Company building at 110-112 East Water Street. Built in the late 1920s, the two-story brick building has a central window on the second story of the facade flanked by pairs of windows with a concrete name panel running across and above the windows. The storefront, with its double-leaf glass and wood entrance, single-leaf stair entrance, shop windows, decorative wood pilasters, and transom, is largely intact. East of the Hawkins and Proctor building, the one-story brick commercial building at 118 East Water Street is another good example of the style (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929; Corriher Interview).

The end of the 1920s brought the construction of a new freight depot for the Carolina and North Western Railroad. Located at 211-213 North Poplar Street at the northeast edge of the district, the depot is a long, one-story, German-sided frame building with a hipped roof, typical of small-town depots of the period. (Sanborn Map, 1929, 1941; LCHA Calendar, 1998).

The decade also brought the construction of one- and two-story commercial buildings on South Academy Street (116 and 203). And, it was during the 1920s that the old Lincolnton Baptist Church on East Water Street was converted to commercial use, first as a tin shop and then as the Lincoln Motors used-car dealership, which it remained for at least two decades.

Few buildings were erected in the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District during the 1930s, but some buildings were rebuilt, heavily remodeled, or expanded. The decade began with two serious fires in the district. On March 2, 1930, fire broke out on the second floor of the three-story Grigg Building at 118 East Main Street. Even with the combined efforts of the Lincolnton, Hickory, Gastonia, and Cherryville fire companies, the conflagration heavily damaged the Grigg Building and destroyed the adjacent two-story Baker Building at 120 East Main Street. The two-story building at 116 East Main Street was not damaged by the fire itself, but a collapsing wall from the Grigg Building inflicted serious

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damage to its roof, resulting in the loss of the building's elaborate classical cornice with its triangular pediment. The building at 118 East Main was soon rebuilt, but as a two-story, rather than a three-story, structure with a simple Commercial Style facade. Around 1950, the facade of 116 was replaced to match that of 118. The most decorative aspect of the two-store-wide facade is the subtle brickwork treatment above and below each set of second-story windows, consisting of three rows of soldier bricks laid in a stepped formation. From at least 1936 to 1960, the building served as the Eagle 5, 10, 15 Cent Store. At 120 East Main, a two-story brick building was erected to replace the Baker Building soon after the 1930 fire. Its Commercial Style facade has an eight-bay-wide second story visually divided in half by two long, recessed brick panels above the windows. Each half of the facade has two sets of paired windows flanked by single windows. For more than half a century, the building was used as the B. C. Moore Store, or simply as Moore's (Sanborn Map, 1929, 1941; *Lincoln County News*, March 3, 1930; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 74; Harpe, *Lincoln County*, 13; Heavner Interview, June 17, 2005).

In late July, 1930, the large, frame Rhodes and Corriher mule sales barn on East Water Street burned to the ground. The fire also damaged other surrounding properties, including the roof of the former Lincolnton Baptist Church, which had been converted to commercial use as Lincoln Motors in the 1920s. The burned roof was replaced by a flat roof. Soon after the fire, in 1930 and 1931, Rhodes and Corriher built a new sales stable, this time a two-story brick building. The facade of the large building is divided into five bays by brick pilasters that rise to just above the second-story windows and end with beveled concrete caps, giving the otherwise Commercial Style building a hint of Art Deco style design. The stepped parapet of the facade features a stone panel giving the name of the building (Rhodes and Corriher), the date of construction (1930), the name of the contractor (Herman-Sipe Company, Inc.), and the name of the architect (Martin L. Hampton). In 1949-1950 Corriher and Rhodes expanded their building to the west with a one-story brick structure. This ultra-plain building, typical of 1950s commercial architecture, exhibits the Moderne style with its rounded brick corners that flank the central entrance (Corriher Interview; *Lincoln County News*, July 31, 1930; Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929, 1941).

Two examples of 1930s construction—both ca. 1935—are of particular interest. At 230 East Water Street, the 1913 Coca Cola Bottling Company plant was enlarged with a brick one-story office and additional shipping rooms. Reflecting the Moderne style of architecture, the office has rounded front corners, brick quoins flanking the office entrance, and vent openings above the front windows of the office that held what appeared to be white coke bottles (removed in recent years). Around 1950 a room with a curved east corner (continuing the use of the Moderne style) and large display windows was added to the front of the two-story section of the building allowing passersby to observe the bottling process. The other example of 1930s construction is located at the southeast corner of East Main (202-210) and South Academy streets. The two-story brick Lawing and Costner Drug Store tripled in size at this time, taking on its present nine-bay-wide Commercial Style facade with plain brickwork and three upper-facade, slightly recessed, brick panels with white concrete blocks at the corners. The South Academy Street elevation also carries a row of windows across the upper facade (Sanborn Map 1921, 1929, 1941; *Lincoln County News*, October 7, 1935; Collins and Dellinger).

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The 1940s saw the construction of several buildings in the historic district, as well as some remodeling. At the north end of the first block of North Aspen Street (numbered as the 200 block), two buildings associated with the care of automobiles were erected around 1940. At 212-214, a one-story brick building was erected to serve the business of Keever's Body Shop, an auto repair and laquer spraying shop. Around 1950 the building was modified to serve as the Carolina Roller Shop, which repaired rollers for textile mills. The Harvey family, whose patriarch Odell Harvey started the business, still operates it in this building. Across the street, the McGinnis Brothers Tire Store and Service Station was built at 215 North Aspen Street. The distinctive L-shaped building remains largely unaltered. Its brickwork is designed so that every eighth row of stretchers is recessed, and all the facade doors and windows are topped by multi-pane transoms (Sanborn Map, 1941; 1957 City Directory; LCHA Calendar, 2004).

In the 200 block of South Academy Street, barber James Leatherman and his father built two one-story buildings out of concrete blocks. In 1940 they built the Leatherman Barber Shop at 210, the third building that the elder Leatherman had occupied for his business since its establishment in 1915. James Leatherman still operates the barber shop. The simple building has a stuccoed facade, a center door, and flanking windows. Within the next couple of years, the Leathermans built a second building next door at 208 South Academy Street, which they rented to the Lincoln Heating and Air Conditioning Company for the next two decades. This building's concrete blocks are left exposed, and a recessed panel carries across the upper facade above the recessed center entrance and flanking store windows (Leatherman Interview; *Lincoln Times-News*, April 8, 2005).

A building alteration of note that probably occurred in the 1940s (though it could have been the 1930s), was the modern, Art Deco-style remodeling of the storefront of the 1914 Childs Block at 107 East Main Street. The storefront's display windows are made of vertical panels of glass caulked at the joints, giving an almost curved appearance, and the floors leading to the two recessed entrances and the stair entrance are covered with three-color terrazzo tile sunbursts. Structural-glass panels that ran across the building above the storefront have been removed or covered in recent years.

The 1950s brought several new buildings and several remodelings of significance to the district. On the east side of the 200 block of South Academy Street, four one-story, concrete-block commercial buildings with plain brick facades were erected from ca. 1955 to ca. 1958. In appearance, these simple buildings (209, 215, 217, 219) are related to the earlier Commercial Style, only they are more stripped-down and austere. The Lincoln County News first occupied the building at 209, Murdock Bakery was an early occupant of 215, and 219 was for half a century occupied by Jarrett's Laundry and Cleaners (Leatherman Interview; 1957 City Directory; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 55). Another new building was the Jonas Building, erected at 212 East Main Street ca. 1950. The two-story brick building reflects a Colonial Revival influence with its Flemish-bond brickwork across the eight-bay-wide second story, its pent eave sheltering the storefront, and the gable roof at the front end of the building with stepped-parapet gable ends. An early occupant of the first story was the Winn Dixie Super Market, while the offices of Jonas and Jonas Attorneys were on the second story (Sanborn Map 1941; 1957 City



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Directory).

Around 1950 the Belk-Shrum Company Department Store at 125 East Main Street, built in the 1920s, was doubled in size, running all the way back to East Sycamore Street. At the same time, or within several years, the building received its current modern facade. The plain facade, typical of the facades of many commercial buildings in North Carolina that were remodeled in the 1950s or 1960s, is composed of rectangular metal panels with a perimeter metal border of a darker color. The spare, clean-cut lines of the facade with its broad expanse of flat metal panels that served as a backdrop for the building's signage, reflected mid-twentieth-century modern design aesthetics (1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 309-310; Harpe, *Lincolnton*, 66, 89). At 117-119 West Court Square, the two, two-story brick buildings that had been erected by R. S. Reinhardt ca. 1920 and ca. 1925, were united by a new facade that encompassed both. The six-bay-wide second story is enlivened by a simple pattern formed by raised bricks. Numerous businesses have occupied the building (Sanborn Map, 1929, 1941; 1957 City Directory; *Lincoln County Pictures* 3).

There has been remarkably little change in the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District since the end of the 1955 period of significance. Only seven buildings, including the ca. 1958 one-story commercial buildings at 215 and 219 South Aspen Street, have been erected. Of the five remaining buildings, two are small garage and storage buildings. The other three are the 1977 Carolina First National Bank building at 102 East Main Street, the 1956-1957 education building at First United Methodist Church (201 East Main Street), and the church's fellowship hall at 217 East Main Street, which was built in 2001. The bank, a modern, three-story, masonry and glass building, constitutes the greatest physical change in the district. At its strategic location at the southeast corner of East Main Street and East Court Square, it replaced the ca. 1921 Classical Revival First National Bank and two adjacent brick commercial buildings on East Main Street (Sanborn Map, 1911, 1921, 1941). The First United Methodist Church education building is a two-story, yellow brick structure with restrained classical ornamentation, and the church's fellowship hall is a Colonial Revival style one-story brick building on a raised basement. It was built on the site of the two-story brick building that served in the mid-twentieth century as the Lincolnton Police and Fire Department.

Two highly significant buildings were lost in the 1970s. The ca. 1815 three-and-a-half-story brick John Hoke House, later the Inverness Hotel, burned in 1976. It was located on North Court Square just east of the Goodson, Jones, and Hoyle Building, and its site is now a parking lot. The large, three-story brick antebellum Lincolnton/North State Hotel, located at the southwest corner of West Main Street and West Court Square, was lost to the construction of the Lincoln County Citizens Center.

During the second half of the twentieth century, it was common for commercial buildings in North Carolina's many towns and cities to have their storefronts modernized. Lincolnton followed this trend. Frequently this involved the replacement of original storefronts with metal-framed plate glass doors and display windows. An unusual double remodeling has taken place on the south side of the 100 block of East Main Street. Probably during the late 1960s or 1970s, the facades of 120-132 East Main Street were sheathed in metal; however, in recent years, the metal facades have been removed, once

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again revealing the original building facades. A more permanent remodeling took place ca. 1990 at 111 East Main Street, where the facade of the 1910s two-story brick building was stone-veneered.

Another change has occurred in the district in recent years. Probably in the 1960s, the Carolina and North Western Railroad, by then part of the Norfolk and Southern, ceased using the tracks that cross near the east end of the district below grade. Later the tracks were removed, and in 1998 the path of the tracks was paved to create the Marcia H. Cloninger Rail-Trail for walkers and joggers.

Despite these changes since the 1955 end of the district's period of significance, the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District still conveys to a remarkable degree the appearance it acquired during the first half of the twentieth century. A growing interest in historic preservation will help ensure that Lincolnton's historically significant downtown will survive for the future.

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying Lincoln County GIS Map, drawn to a scale of 1" = 150'.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Lincolnton Commercial Historic District is drawn to include the cohesive group of historic buildings associated with commerce and government in Lincolnton and erected in the city's downtown core from ca. 1900 to 1955, the district's period of significance. As drawn, the district forms an entity that is distinguishable from its surroundings. Beyond the district boundaries, the cohesiveness and integrity of the district is not present. Instead, the surrounding area is characterized by an increase in more recent construction, older buildings that have lost their historic integrity, parking lots and vacant land, and residential neighborhoods.

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1)            Lincolnton Commercial Historic District
  - 2)            Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina
  - 3)            Laura A. W. Phillips
  - 4)            April 2005
  - 5)            North Carolina Historic Preservation Office
- 6-7)    A:     Lincoln County Courthouse and 100 block East Main Street, view to SW  
          B:     South side, East Court Square, view to SE  
          C:     Reinhardt Block, West Court Square, view to NW  
          D:     North Court Square, view to NE  
          E:     North side, East Court Square, view to SE  
          F:     North side, 100 block East Main Street, view to NE  
          G:     South side, 100 block East Main Street, view to SW  
          H:     North side, 200 block East Main Street, view to NE  
          I:     South side, 200 block East Main Street, view to SE  
          J:     South side, 100 block East Water Street, view to SW  
          K:     West side, 100 block South Academy Street and north side, 100 block East Water  
              Street, view to NW  
          L:     East side, 200-100 blocks South Academy Street, view to N  
          M:     Coca Cola Bottling Company, 230 East Water Street, view to S  
          N:     Carolina and North Western Railroad Freight Depot, 211-213 North Poplar Street,  
              view to SE  
          P:     Lincoln Ginnery Company Seed House and Banner Roller Mills, 319 North  
              Poplar Street, view to NW

